WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JUNE 2000

"Truth generally faces a pretty wretched life, but it always survives. It always survives." Abe Osheroff

A Street Party in the Sprawl-Zone

Matthew Lyon Clark

On May 1st, there was a vibrant, and well needed, street party here in Olympia. The party raised many issues, including the celebration of Mayday; known around the planet as International Working People's Day, and as Beltane, an ancient fertility tradition. All kinds of folks stood up and partied down for the resistance of the rampant corporate control and greed that is taking a serious toll on peoples' lives, and the environment, across the globe. This is part of an ongoing and unstoppable resistance movement.

However, the street party demonstrated that it is equally necessary to focus this resistance on what is happening locally; the proliferation of car culture, the destruction of natural areas, rising taxes, and the widening gap between rich and poor. There is a word for what is happening to our communities, and that word is SPRAWL.

Urban and suburban sprawl and the large number of social ills and environmental destruction that follow must be stopped. Moreover, we all must be aware of what sprawl is, what the components of it are, how our tax dollars pay for it, and that there is a broad scope of solutions to focus on.

The Sierra Club defines sprawl as low-density, automobile dependant development beyond the edge of service and employment, which separates where people live from where they shop, work, recreate and go to school. Sprawl is a disease. Or more accurately it is a manifestation of the real disease; namely the acceptance and outright worship of capitalism.

"There was good reason for the location of the street party...as the mudwrestlers made us aware, that intersection destroyed a tributary running into Percival Creek."

LAND PAVED OVER

According to the American Farmland Trust, the Puget Sound region is the fifth most-threatened area in the nation of losing land to sprawl. Nationwide, sprawl consumes 400,000 acres of farmland annually. In many cities, the rate of land development dwarves the rate of population increases, because of the low-density of sprawl. In some cases, such as Columbus, OH, and Detroit, the population is decreasing, and sprawl continues to chew the land. The place of ultimate sprawl, and the American sprawl pioneer city, saw a 46% increase in population from 1970 to 1990, and a wholloping 300% growth in land area. The city I mention, of course, is L.A. Sprawl continues to destroy the agricultural heritage in America, and disrupts the cultural and economic character of rural life. Furthermore, it is the fast proliferation of the "quick fix", of the consumption-based, convenience-driven lifestyle, which smothers many of the sustainable ideals that founded this country.

Sprawl is a problem that is everyone's responsibility to overcome, and work for solutions. Those who live in sprawled areas have just as much repsponsibility (if not more) as anyone to take a stand. I was tired of hearing shortsighted complaints about how the street party "inconvenienced" some people. It is the very "conveniences" of sprawl-culture that make it more difficult for us to change to sustainable growth practices, and to therefore continue to rip-off future generations. Real change is going to take work and commitment, not convenience.

There was good reason for the location of the street party. The ugly and costly big box stores eating up that area are unnecessary and wasteful, and hurt local business owners as well. And, as the mud wrestlers made us aware, that intersection (Blake Lake & Cooper Point) destroyed a tributary running into Percival creek. The annihilation of many waterways and wetlands (not to mention the stupid practice of developing floodplains) increases polluted runoff, prevents natural filtration of the pollutants, and can cause major flooding.

Sprawl affects wildlife more than we like to realize. In the Puget Sound region, sprawl is considered a likely cause for the listing of Chinook salmon on he Endangered Species list, according to a 2000 Sierra Club report. Together with and ever-expanding network of roads, sprawl is a big factor in many lost or fragmented habitats.

The Mayday street party brought good energy to the heart of sprawl for our area, and it did so to build resistance to a cancerous growth that is literally eating us alive. This cancer is a major reason for the loss of farms, wildlife habitat, and open space.

CAR CULTURE

The main perpetuating force of sprawl is the circulation system, which are the disgustingly excessive ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND TRAFFIC. As people live farther and farther away from where they go on a daily basis, the car trips become more numerous and longer.New

(Continued page 7)

PRIDE DAY 2000
Parade and Celebration

Capital City Pride

Join us in our efforts to plan the best Pride Day ever! Local folks are meeting now to organize our Pride Day Parade and Celebration to be held on**Saturday, June 17, 2000. Folks will gather near the Tivoli Fountain on the Capitol Grounds from 10:30-11:00am.**

Departing the Capitol at 12 noon and proceeding out to Capitol Way South, the Parade heads down the hill to 5th Avenue, turn left (West) and proceed to Heritage Park where the remaining events will be held.

Innovations continue this year with a huge concert by **Swamp Mama Johnson**, more kid's activities, great food and even more fun.

We meet Thursdays at 7pm in the Olympia Center, 222 N. Columbia, downtown Olympia. Room numbers are posted. Next Meetings: June 1st, June 8th, and June15th. Call Jane for info: 360-753-5527.

Float/Contingent info: If you are planning on entering a float in this year's parade please contact David Lofton. Floats should be on the State Capitol grounds near the Tivoli Fountain by 10:30am, Saturday, June 17 (to ensure placement in the parade).

Empty Space

by Theresa Baxter

What do you think when you see an empty parking space designated for the handicapped? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK. How is it, that one segment of the population is missing from a parking lot where everyone else wants or needs to be? And who are the missing people?

Many years ago, I was the victim of a violent crime. My injuries included the paralyzing symptom of a broken neck, which is becoming known as, *the toughest break*. It is a time I rarely talk about, but remember each and every day.

Only a disabled person is at liberty to use the permit required for parking in a space with a handicapped designation. The eligible people are blind, or using portable oxygen to breathe. They may have a cardiac condition or severe limitation due to an arthritic, orthopedic, or neurological illness. Often times, they are unable to walk without assistance, or need to permanently use a wheel chair.

People who are physically handicapped OFTEN have little in common. One similarity, however, is in the way they are treated by the society they come from. This makes disability a social malady, defined by society and given meaning by culture.

The disabled are in reality not separate from the abled, but instead are representative of the overall human condition. Paralysis LIKE MINE, FOR EXAMPLE, can be congenital or happen at any age, to any one. According to the *National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center*, it is estimated that there are 40,000 new cases of spinal cord injury a year. The TOTAL number of people in the United States who are alive today who have received traumatic spinal cord injury has been estimated to be 230,000 by the Model Spinal Cord Injury Care Systems.

This country has made remarkable progress in providing equal access to public buildings, starting with a designated place to park. But, if someone is not parked in that space, is there much reason to believe they have made it to anywhere past that point?

The parking place is like the starting line of life's race. Not making it to the starting line means never getting to the finish. Not making it to the start or the finish, means not even having a chance to win life's race. Empty spaces represent a missing voice, and the wholeness that is lost by leaving that voice out. When the spaces are filled, the human condition will be an improved one for us all.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, June 16th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, June 19th
6:30pm at Olympia Library
Everyone Welcome!

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Announcements

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

PFLAG's National Conference
Sunday, June 11th at 2pm
First Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Problems with your landlord?

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360) **357-0615 or come by our monthly public legal clinic on Monday, June 12th at 6pm in the downtown Olympia Library.** Meeting follows to discuss CDBG funding and update on Relocation Ordinance. Come to volunteer and join the Board.

Humanitarian Tile Project

The Alki Program at Reeves Middle School has been learning about Humanitarians in our country's history. It has been an exciting experience for all involved. Teacher Val Davis has produced other tile projects with her students over the years. One on Native Americans can be seen on the wall across from the Artesian well in downtown Olympia.

Students have already invested $300 through car washes and family donations. We are looking for underwriting from the Olympia community to help defray the growing cost of the project. We ask a minimum donation of $10, per tile they would like to sponsor. All support is greatly appreciated by the children. This tile project cosists of 289 tiles:

* The center 25 will be a group project called "From the Depths" and is an image from 1907 representing the class struggle humanity has fought
*The next row of 24 are reproductions of flyers, images, and posters representative of the struggles humanitarians have dealt with over the past 100 years.
*225 tiles will be created individually by each student representing their humanitarian and the student's handprint.
*The remaining 15 tiles are open for sponsors to submit designs. The designs may consist of sponsor's logo, a quote from a favorite humanitarian, or a design the sponsor feels is representative of our goal to honor humanitarians in American history. (The tiles are 6"x6")

Donations can be made out to the Reeves Parent Club with "Alki Tile Project" in the memo field. Call 786-1192 for more information.

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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The Capitol Theater in Downtown Olympia

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To receive a program or get information about shows, show times, locations, and prices call 754-6670.

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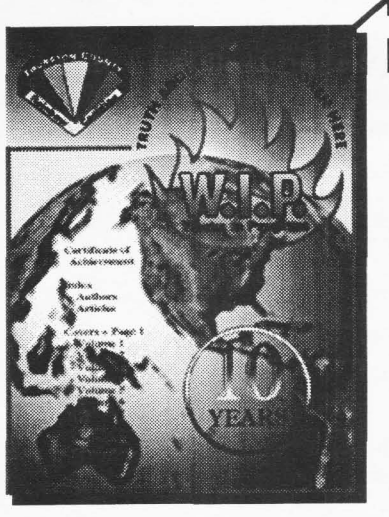
☐ Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each (while supplies last)



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JUNE 2000

"Life isn't fair, get used to it."

Bill Gates

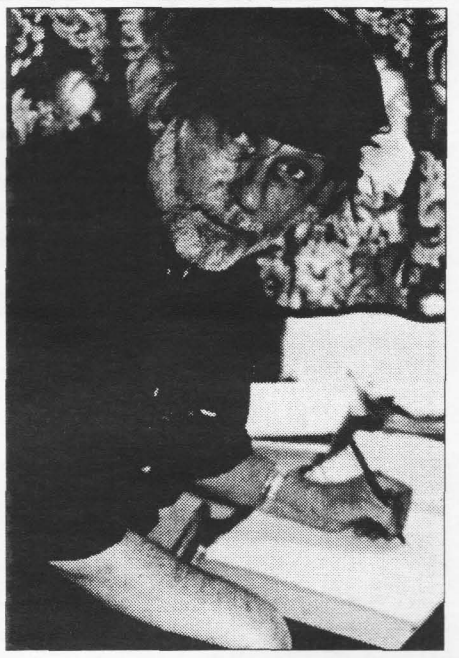
MicroSoft

Karma sometimes happens.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**"There won't be anything we won't say to people to try and convince them that our way is the way to go."** **Bill Gates**		**1** **1963**: World's Fair opens in Seattle **1999**: Clinton orders investigation of entertainment industry marketing violence to kids	**2** **1899**- Black Americans observed day of fasting called by National Afro-American Council to protest lynchings and racial massacres	**3** 1999: Milosevic accepts peace plan **1999**: Archbishop bans St Michael Church gay discussion group on church property
4 **1999**: Microsoft email betrays Microsoft's claims Netscape was not illegally crippled **1999**: NATO agrees to stop bombing Serbs	**5** **1998**: Announced in Japan that subatomic particles called neutrinos do have mass: one ten-millionth the mass of the electron	**6** **1997**: State Supreme Court rules Thurston County sheriff's deputies allowed to patrol areas of the Nisqually Indian Reservation	**7** **1999**: Locke signs bill forgiving taxes on Thurston Co. homes damaged by recent landslides; also signs salmon restoration bill	**8** **1999**: NATO warplanes attack widespread target in a thunderous warning to Serbia to implement a Kosovo peace plan	**9** **1998**: Centralia power plant and coal mine are for sale **1999**: Yugoslavia and NATO sign peace pact; NATO bombing stops	**10** **1999**: Bellingham pipeline explodes **1996**: Sandra Day O'Connor allows WA state to continue ban on doctor-assisted suicide
11 **1999**: Mumia Abu-Jamal's speech played at Evergreen **1999**: Feds deny federal disaster relief in Thurston County	**12** **1997**: Ralph Nader asks voters to reject Stadium Referendum. **1999**: Protesters reclaim Fourth Ave for 2 hours in the afternoon	**13** **1999**: US Rep George Nethercutt, who touted term limits/promised he wouldn't run again, announces decision to run for reelection	**14** **1999**: The Seattle Arts Museum announces its decision to return a stolen Matisse taken from a Paris art dealer by the Nazis during WWII	**15** **1999**: The Olympia City Council passes an ordinance requiring homeowners to keep their buildings in good repair	**16** **1999**: Kosovo refugees return to Yugoslavia **1999**: Kathleen Ann Soliah, fugitive Symbionese Liberation member, captured	**17** **1999**: State Supreme Court rejects tribal claims to hunt on open and unclaimed land though accustomed areas are now cities'
18 **1999**: WA state Supreme Court upholds right to ask suspected drunken drivers to undergo field sobriety tests	**19** **1999**: Russia backs world leaders from adopting a Kosovo rebuilding program that excludes Slobodan Milosevic's regime	**20** **1999**: NATO signs agreement with ethnic Albanian leaders for the demilitarization of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army	**21** **1996**: Defense Dept admits soldiers may have been exposed to toxic agents from Iraq's chemical weapons arsenal	**22** **1999**: Superintendent of Public Instruction announces most South Sound schools top national average in math, reading, language	**23** **1995**: US pays Nez Perce, Umatilla,, Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama $57 million for lands lost on Columbia in 30s	**24** **1999**: US State Dept announces $5 million reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Slobodan Milosevic
25 **1876**: "Good guys" won at Little Big Horn **1999**: Oregon announces Columbia River Chinook salmon are on rebound	**26** **1996**: Supreme Court rules state-funded colleges can't deny entrance to women; orders Virginia Military Inst. to admit women	**27** **1844**- Joseph Smith and brother murdered by mob in Illinois **1999**: Ethnic Albanians take vengeance on Kosovo Serbs	**28** **1999**: Tenino chapter of Fraternal Order of Eagles files suit alleging org.'s constitution restricting membership to men is illegal	**29** **1999**: Initiative 695 announces they would turn in at least 450,000 voter signatures, only 270,000 signatures are required	**30** **1998**: US fighter jet fires missile at Iraqi anti-aircraft site after a radar signal was detected claims US authorities	**"If you can't make it good, at least make it look good."** Bill Gates

Crossing the Line

PAX CHRISTI: Portrait of a Modern Catholic Worker



Oral History of Bruce Tenney by Megan Davis

Bruce Tenney has been working in the Olympia area for decades, both to provide support for people in the disabled community and to give emergency relief to financially strapped families and individuals. He is now probably best known for his role as longstanding member and contributing cook at Bread and Roses.

I'm a native Tennesseean, and I moved out here to the Northwest in 1951 when my folks came back here to be closer to their aging parents.

I stayed in Olympia through my high school years, and then I went to a junior college, but I didn't want to go to what some people felt was a fourteenth year of high school so I decided to go away from the local area. At that time because of my grades, because of my dexterity problems with cerebral palsy and my dyslexic problems, my academic abilities were not as well formed as others, and I was not able to perform as well. So it took me a great deal of strength, effort and perseverance to get through, and I literally had to have books read to me. You, probably, in your classes, read Cliff Notes. Well, instead of reading a book I might have gone through and read the chapter headlines, and then read the Cliff Notes instead, because of my dyslexic problems – screwed up neurological circuitry in my brain.

After graduating [from Wenatchee Valley College] I came back here and took a few more business courses here, but then switched over to sociology because my interest was changing drastically. I was fluctuating religiously, and socially I was fluctuating and really didn't know where I was going to anchor down. I ended up at St. Martin's College and finally got a Bachelor's Degree in sociology out of that, and re-joined my grandparents on one side of the family [who] were strong Catholics.

[In 1981] I became a VISTA volunteer in Kansas City, Missouri, working in a black inner city neighborhood. So I was both a double minority – white and disabled in a black, inner city neighborhood. It was beautiful. I was surprised at how much support I got from the community, but it was great. Then I finished my year there and came back here because my father had died just as I was leaving. I wanted to come back and be with my mom and help her out a little bit and so forth, even though they offered me another year in another project in the Kansas City, Missouri area. But I wanted to come home.

And then I got involved with Faith in Light, Faith in Sharing. Basically [a] disabled ministry within the Church. Jean Vanier... runs sheltered living for handicapped people living in France and throughout the world, and one of his sidelights is Faith in Light, Faith in Sharing, which are community-building programs for the disabled. I joined that through the Church and worked with [patrons of] Morningside.

Then about 1982, because of my interest in disabled people, I also got interested in social justice and human rights. I joined FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation), and Pax Christi and other programs in peace.

Spirituality, religion is very strong in my life. I struggled for many years to get it, and I'm struggling now to maintain it and to grow deeper in it. Yes, it's very strong in my life.

I lived with my folks for 35 years, and I now have an apartment here and probably will spend most of my life here in Olympia unless something calls me someplace else. But I fully expect to stay right here and help those in need.

A Story of Bread and Roses

In 1982, a couple of former activists came [to Olympia] from California and from Iowa. They came out here – I guess maybe they had heard that our social service system out here was a little weak in servicing some of our citizens- and [they] started a Catholic Worker house....

Catholic Worker is not a truly Catholic organization. Dorothy Day was a journalist and a social worker in the '30s, and Peter Murrin was a socialist-communist. I think they were actually married, and they came and started the Catholic Worker movement. Basically, broadly speaking, it started in the '30s, giving the homeless and hungry people a place to crash, a place to stay overnight, and a warm meal.

But in any case, we [at Bread and Roses] started out with one house with fifteen beds, total. With four staff people and the rest were open to hospitality. So the guests were living in the house with our staff people. And it's been going that way since '82... One of our directors just last night said that they were going to burn the mortgage this year, on the house.

A few years later... we expanded to being able to house fifteen people in what you call the Guest House. And that's been full 95% of the time.

And it's still open?

Yes, yes. Very much so.

We had to grow again, and we found a former garage down on Cherry Street, where [the soup kitchen] currently is – 114 Cherry. We got a lease with them and we rented it and renovated it. Now, as I say, it has nineteen tables and roughly 80 people can sit at one sitting.... Each seat is used twice during a meal. And our numbers have grown from 24 at our original place to rounding to about 150 a meal.

When we moved to our current 114 Cherry Street, the garage was big enough so we could divide it in basically half. On one side we [put a drop-in site called] the Dorothy Day Center. We have it for preschool and above families – low-income, needy families... No income, things like that. If they don't have the resources for getting a doctor or getting a dentist, or getting shots or something like that, we can refer people to those. And there's a play area for the families and they can have showers and do their laundry and things like that there.

I give close to forty hours a week down at Bread and Roses.

How does Bread and Roses fit into the Olympia community?

We're trying to meet the needs of those people that fall between the cracks of our society, and to help them become active, supportive members of our society in whatever ways they can.... We've seen – I can't think of the percentages, but we've seen street kids, indigent families, mothers and children coming in that are transitioning or trying to get on to their first jobs, and we've seen senior citizens in there for meals to supplement their retirement or their social security or whatever. Some of our clients, besides being developmentally disabled or single women and single men, are also veterans. And under the category of veterans are homelessness, poor education and unfocused.

"I feel as though the disabled community...has been put aside, and not mainstreamed and not brought into the competative job market to their abilities, and to their gifts and talents."

When we moved to our current 114 Cherry Street, the garage was big enough so we could divide it in basically half. On one side we started out putting in a drop-in center to give the homeless a place to stay, because the community saw them on the streets and around, and whether or not it was a business or social service agencies or whatever, they were concerned about that and we picked up on that... but then we found that our particular staff and situation didn't have the professional capabilities to serve them completely. A lot of people were using our drop-in center for coffee and doughnut areas just to recover from a booze binge, or recovering from a drug party the night before. So it got out of hand a little bit. We felt it wasn't appropriate for our mission statement of serving people, and we then turned it to more families.

Many of our people have had brushes with the law in one way or another, and bad credit. One family I know, the husband is working, has two children. They were living on a boat. They're right now living with somebody else, trying to get into an apartment. But they can't quite get all of the first month's rent, last month's rent, security deposit, and maybe even their backgrounds [checked].

Some other groups, [like] the Salvation Army I think, you have to go and sit through a service and hear their theology and their philosophy and their dogma, but no, no, we don't. That's probably why we're here, because a lot of the people that were being served by the Salvation Army and other areas were not being accepted because of their activities – their drinking, their drugs or whatever it is, or maybe their police records or something like that.... If they're homeless we don't turn them away the way some organizations have at one time or another. As long as they come in sober, we don't care too much.

... But [Bread and Roses] is more than that. It's giving them empowerment, or giving them a sense of self-worth. Whether it's the community members or the guests or whatever, it's giving those people their self-worth and support.

What You Can With What You Have

One of my other areas is working with disabled and handicapped people. With the state's downsizing of institutions and mainstreaming them, a lot of them have been coming out of the institutions and coming into our society. And a lot of them have not had the opportunity to become employably educated.

A lot of them need that extra help. Maybe their social security or their job can only give them enough for shelter and clothes. If you can find your shelter and your clothes, where are you going to get your food? Go out and beg on the streets, or ask your parents, or ask other people? Some of those people don't even have parents. Some of them have been ostracized or orphaned or something like that, you know....

I feel as though the disabled community, broadly speaking, over the decades has been put aside, and not been mainstreamed and not been brought into the competitive job market to their abilities, and to their gifts and talents. That is one area that I'm very strong on, is independence – giving them the abilities to do what they can with what they have.

Being possibly an underclass person myself a little bit, with my limitations, I've had to struggle quite a bit and I bounced up. It took me twelve years from high school to get my bachelor's degree, and now I'm knocking on the door of a master's degree and trying to find out what do I need to do to get that... I used to [have self-esteem problems] but I've overcome that. I'm very self-assertive and goal-setting. Basically, "Nobody get in my way because I'm gonna mow you over if you do!" And I

(Continued next page)

(Pax Christi, continued)

go full steam ahead that way.

My folks... didn't allow me to grow quick enough. "You can't do that because you don't have a hand. You can't pick up things, you can't pick up a glass because it's going to fall..." *(He picks up a glass on the table, smiling.)* They tried to do things for me instead of telling me how to do it myself.

I feel that most people should have as much opportunity to grow and become as active in their particular goal or aspirations as they physically and mentally can. And some people shouldn't put other people down for their thoughts or beliefs or aspirations... "You're too old," or, "You don't have the physical abilities." It hurts me when I'm told those things. I challenge the systems. I challenge the issues. I ask them, "Why not?"

Tongue in cheek, I didn't get my earrings until 1993. *(He fingers one of the silver hoops.)* When I was working at Bread and Roses I felt that I wanted to "assert myself" in another way. *(He laughs.)* Yes, in a fashionable way.

I have a very strong feeling that if I'd been an able-bodied person, I might not have had as much rapport with the needy people down there [at Bread and Roses] as I do with my limitations. I think my limitations are an asset to working down there, because they see that I'm doing my darnedest to do my best with what I have. And it's great to see me getting that feeling of helping people, and growing from there, both personally and for the community.

Even though obviously I'm not black, some of the issues Martin Luther King had, now... I see them as issues that I look at also. Independence. Civil rights for the individual. He was a minority, and so am I in a way, being a physically disabled person and a dyslexic. Those are two limiting factors and they've hindered my growth and my ambitions in some ways. I have pictures of Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Dorothy Day on my wall above my desk, among others; Archbishop Romero from Central America. He gave his life for his causes.

Postscript: *One night recently I brought this oral history by Bread and Roses for a final look-over. Bruce was sitting in the dining room with another long-time B & R worker, John, drinking coffee and waiting for a food delivery. The kitchen was scrubbed, chairs set on dining tables, floors mopped. A year after the original interview, Bruce still gives full-time to the food kitchen, and tells me the Guest House continues to operate at near-full capacity. The Dorothy Day drop-in center, however, is temporarily closed due to a lack of volunteers.* ◆

Alienation, Anomie and Love

Frank Hoffman

OK. So I had to look up anomie and I think Alien Nation is a TV show.

Anomie refers to a people not having values or morals because they are uprooted and alienation refers to a person being withdrawn or isolated from the objective world (this is also a definition of mental illness.)

Many years ago, in a far away time, that is, the late fifties, some Western thinkers used these A words to describe youths (as Joe Pesci might say.) People like Camus and Sarte, some theologians and whoever made the movie, Rebel Without a Cause (based on the book that purports to be a psychological case study.) I was a youth at this time. I wasn't smart enough to be alienated or to experience anomie. I was just confused and suicidal. I thought hope was over rated and I expected the confusion to linger. It has. My feelings about hope have altered somewhat.

When I saw the expressions of outrage in the local Gannett paper about the recent May Day Celebration, and heard in cafes all these cries of, Why?, Why?; well, Alienation and Anomie popped up into my mind as an answer and explanation.

Perhaps we celebrants, some of us, are people becoming aware of the fact that most of us have to work for a living in soul-killing jobs almost all of our adult lives. And that we have no choice in this matter. Work or starve. What a prospect! 30 years of labor followed immediately by old age. Mortgages. Diapers. Commutes followed by nights at home in front of the TV. Bosses alternating between valium and meth. Dental plans. It's all too much! And all in the name of late and global capitalism, in a society apparently seriously considering George W. as their elected leader. Cover your eyes while I disrobe and join the mud wrestlers.

It is reasonable to say No! to the normal if it is giving you a life sentence without possibility of appeal or parole. And the societal response is to say, pay your dues and you'll get a projection TV bye and bye.

Can't buy me love. Can't pay death to stay away. Concerning the secret garden: City council members say planting a flower in a vacant lot is against the law and shows disrespect. How can that be?

How can planting a flower be an act of civil disobedience?! You want me to stop my dance to stand in line at an office somewhere hoping my flower will be permitted?

Let me dance in the sun, play in the rain, roll in the flowers.

Don't tell me life is pain and toil and club me into the ground when I demand an 8 hour work day or call me names when I insist that life smiles! Can't cuddle a BMW.

Workers and lovers know they are part of the beauty and substance of the world,and it's fair to ask everybody to stop what they are doing and acknowledge that – if only once a year. ◆

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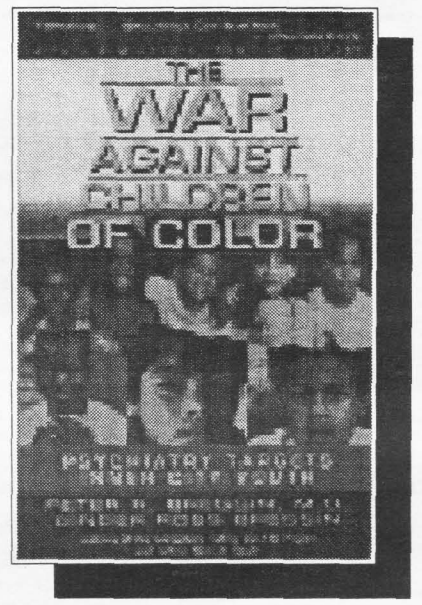
Book Review

Are Genes to Blame for Youth Violence?



Venedel Herbito

***The War Against Children of Color* by Peter R. Breggin & Ginger Ross Breggin, Common Courage Press, 1998**

Perpetrators of violence in the inner city are seen as biochemically and genetically defective, and plans are (being and have been) developed for identifying supposedly violence-prone children before they grow into dangerous youths and adults.

-- from the Introduction

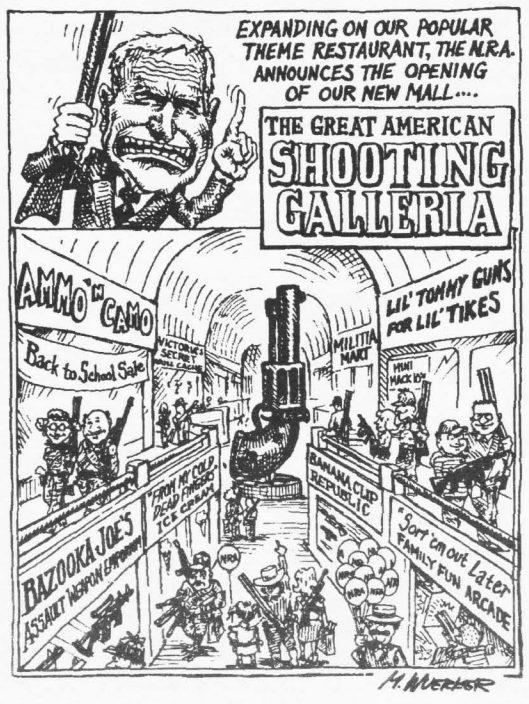
What is the first image that comes to your mind when you read the title *The War Against Children of Color*? A military siege against all youth of color in the various ethnic enclaves dispersed throughout the country? Or maybe a reflection of the current state in the U.S. where divestment in education and investment in prisons continues at a record-breaking high? That's a little closer to what the book actually entails though I wouldn't say the former is too far away into the future. I'm sure there's some of us who have now come to terms with the reality that there is indeed some kind of war against today's youth, or rather there has been a war, whether we'd like to believe it or not. The question is what kind of war and who are the major players? Well, the authors of *The War Against Children of Color* bring to light some appalling plans about this war that continue and that are currently in the works possibly effecting most of the children being raised in our generation and upcoming generations. To add to the already complicated dimension of inequality in the distribution of educational resources within certain parts of the country and effecting certain populations, not to mention the quality of curriculum to represent diverse histories and perspectives, here is a scientific dimension that we all should be aware of and think critically about uncovered in this book. This is a case where the powers that be would rather focus on the remedy and not the cause. Literally speaking.

Psychiatrist Peter R. Breggin and writer Ginger Ross Breggin present an important critique and examination of the scientific basis of quelling youth violence in the inner city. They reveal how some mental health professionals maintain that certain youth are more prone to violence than others, and that it is primarily youth of color in the inner cities being targeted for these scientific research and breakthroughs. The Breggin's overall analysis is one that points out the simple fact that these mental health professionals proposing such violence initiatives are overlooking critical social and economic factors within our society influencing their viewpoints as well as the conditions within these supposed violence prone communities themselves.

Such a scientific response, or rather supposed scientific remedy, to violence that targets youth comes amidst a time when more headlines publicize youth shooting one another in public schools all across the country, not just in the densely populated inner cities but even in rural and smaller towns. Tighter state and federal laws against convicted youth seems but one way for politicians to reduce the rising rates of incarcerated youth, not to mention the rising prison population in general. But for these professionals in the field of mental health and those in the federal government supporting their research efforts against violence-prone youth, these measures only signal the urgency and need to look to alternative means to quell violence in the inner-cities, even if it means a scientific one.

"The Breggins reveal the massive cover up and links between certain psychiatrists, federal agencies and pharmaceutical companies that provide specific examples of corporate crime in mental health care."

In *The War Against Children of Color*, the Breggin's look at various research and testing efforts conducted by the federal government on these violence pron-youth. An initiative that they examine in particular was proposed in the mid-1990's by the highest-ranking psychologists of the time. The Violence Initiative, as it was then called, targeted inner city youth, which were primarily of course poor youth and youth of color and continue to be. This initiative was the federal government's umbrella plan to systematically drug and test youth in the inner city public schools and would have enforced, in the words of the Breggin's, an urban biomedical social control. It would have required youth deemed by the school as aggressive and hyperactive to take particular drugs to suppress their biochemical system and be subject to psychiatric and psychological medical testing and research.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"SORT 'EM OUT LATER" FAMILY FUN ARCADE
M. WERNER

Fortunately, the Breggins launched a campaign against the violence initiative when it was in the works in the mid-1990's and with the support of various colleagues and community members alike, they won. Though they were able to stop the formulation of the violence initiative, they're still not signaling the green light. The Breggins warn that the battle is far from being over as current testing and research on violence-prone youth by various parties continues and is, in fact, growing regardless of the passage of an umbrella initiative.

A significant fact that the Breggins point out is that by no means are these scientific forms of suppressing violence a phenomenon arising just in the 1990s. They trace the research and testing of violence prone youth by the federal government arising in the early 1970's. A particular case points out that psychosurgery was performed on young Black children in Mississippi deemed hyperactive and aggressive. One may ask why Mississippi and why in the early 1970s? Well, as the Breggins state themselves, they and others believe that the purpose of government interventions (like these) is to search out and silence potential community leaders, even preventing the possibility of future uprisings like those that happened in the 60's one might add. In this sense, such initiatives are not merely a response to quell violence as much as to prevent the response and efforts of community people to actively make change for themselves in their communities.

As specialists within the field of mental health themselves, the Breggins try to practice and call for more effective alternative means to so-called restless and hyperactive youth by holding their own kinds of counseling sessions. They attempt to induce communication amongst all family members being affected by the hyperactive and aggressive youth in their family. They are also against the use of any form of drugs that supposedly cures the disorderly behavior of young people. In fact, they believe that such drugs do not prove to be effective at all. Rather, they emphasize that these drugs have long-term effects that can be permanently damaging to one's biochemical system. They also point out that the health effects of numerous prescription and over-the-counter drugs available for the control of disorderly youth are yet unknown and need to be tested, despite warning labels and doctors that claim otherwise.

Well, then what is exactly motivating the use of such drugs for biomedical social control? one might ask. As the Breggins put it, it is the psycho-pharmaceutical complex and it's manufacturing and marketing of drugs targeted to quell youth violence. Of course, if you don't have a market for your product, why make it? And if you don't think you have one, then make one. Like any corporation, adverse environmental and health effects are never considered, or if considered, ignored if not economically suitable to the company. The Breggins reveal the massive cover up and links between certain psychiatrists, federal agencies and pharmaceutical companies that provide specific examples of corporate crime in mental health care. Pharmaceutical companies are out there to make a buck, while some psychiatrists and agencies are there to keep the bucks coming and to protect their reputation. These are exactly the practices that the Breggins highlight and warn about.

Though it has been about two years since the initial release of the book, by far are the arguments and research of the Breggins outdated. Much of the scientific research and testing to quell youth violence continues. In fact, it is growing. Testing such as pet scans and spinal taps on youth continue. The Breggins explain that pet scans are a brain study that requires the injection of radioactive tracers used to determine the level of ongoing metabolic activity in various parts of the brain over time. It involves long periods of remaining stationary on a scary apparatus and painful injections. Spinal taps or lumbar punctures require children to lie very still on their side for several minutes with their body flexed while a local anesthetic and a needle insertion are carried out in the back. It requires them to be stationary with a needle in place while spinal fluid is removed.

Despite the high-tech sounding and careful procedure of such research and testings, the Breggins warn that the parents of these children may have not even been informed about the exposure of radiation on their children nor the probable futility of the study. Unfortunately, some parents become convinced by these mental health professionals determined to pinpoint a scientific cause and basis for violence to test their children. Yet, just the description of the kinds of research practices themselves and the risk involved though not even clearly explained to the effected parties raises uncertainty and fear.Rather than focusing on finding a remedy, the Breggins urge us once again to find the cause, or rather causes to the problem of violence. They call us not to simply hone on rising cases of violence and youth disturbance as a single matter that can be remedied and solved within itself. But rather taking a look at the bigger picture, they make us ask why we as a society do not question the kind of world were living in that makes our youth today be so violent rather than instantaneously drugging them. What the Breggins have done is expand and further open up an issue and an argument that has merely been trimmed down for the public as an immediate and necessary response to control and quell restless youth. The Breggins have generously contributed in the patchwork necessary to bring the hidden information to the general public.

For more information and updates on the work of the Breggins and the issues raised in this article, visit their website at <www.breggin.com> Common Courage Press can be reached at www.commoncouragepress.com. Or call 1-800-497-3207. ◆

(Sprawl Zone, continued)

roads actually encourage more sprawling development, and attract more traffic like powerful magnets. As with many other aspects of our system, devotion of more money and support for new road construction, or the widening of highways, is a short-term and ineffective treatment of symptoms. Meanwhile the real disease just gets worse. Consider these facts: In 1988, Americans drove an unfathomable 2.6 trillion miles, the equivalent of driving to Mars and back nearly 10,000 times, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1998. Wow. That's a lot of time and energy spent inefficiently, and it's mostly for only one person to get from point A to point Z.

Also, According to the Surface Transportation Policy Project, of the increase in driving from 1983 to 1990, 70 percent was due to the impacts of sprawl.

Driving isolates people from one another, it spews more toxins into our air than anything else, and it uses up more and more time. Seattle already has the fourth worst traffic in the U.S., and according to a recent report, Puget Sound area drivers spend an average of 59 hours stopped in traffic each year. Sprawl and poorly planned roads also make walking and bicycling difficult, dangerous (as I've experienced in Lacey more than once) or just downright impossible.

To make things worse (especially for those who don't or can't drive) the inappropriately named Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century was signed into law in June of 1998. It sets federal spending for transportation for six years; it authorizes $173.1 billion for highways, but only $41 billion for public and mass transit projects. Hmm... this seems familiar; I recall a recent bickered-over budget for the State of Washington that shares a similar proportion of monies. These unfair and destructive decisions make sprawl grow ever so faster, and erode the quality of life for many. More and more, cars are becoming the only option for too many people. Wrongful spending of our money by government is preventing the expansion of public transit. And such expansion is the best solution we have for sprawl right now. To cram more pollutants in our faces, Tim Eyman's I-695 has setback the whole state in ways we are still discovering, and it will take years to recover from it.

Car culture feeds sprawl and subsidies and tax breaks feed car culture. From oil subsidies to artificially low gas prices, to voter approval of Initiative 695, there are many ways in which the people have funded their own traffic nightmare. Sprawl itself is the result of over fifty years of corporate subsidies; tax breaks for polluters, hidden costs, and government incentives for projects that encourage sprawl. Sprawl is funded, of course, by the American taxpayer.

HOW GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES SPRAWL & EVERYONE PAYS FOR IT

I come from the Front Range in Colorado, which is seriously ill from sprawl. The subdivisions are actually monocropped, and grow rampantly, right from the ground. Consider the above national statistic of 400,000 acres of farmland and open space lost every year. A November 1996 story in National Geographic says that Colorado itself loses 90,000 acres of farm and ranchland annually. That's nearly a fifth the paved over farmland for the entire country. You would believe it if you've seen it too; there are subdivisions so large they have their own zip code.

When I was a child, the next town to the south was 20 miles away. Now, however, the farms in between have been erased, and like other places in the nation, the cites are connecting. Actually, all the cities on the Front Range are melding together, to create, within 15 years (by my estimate) a giant megopolis, nearly 120 miles long.

I can remember not even needing or wanting to visit the sprawling southern area of my hometown. Each time that I did, there would be some new shopping center or 300-house subdivision that had apparently grown out of nowhere, without my consent. And this is exactly the point of my story. Sprawl is subsidized, is made to look legitimate, and then the cost of the new development is put on the backs of everyone, even if the majority of the demand and approval for such development is with the newcomers, the developers and city officials. The costs off sprawl are enormous and come in the form of higher taxes (property taxes are a biggie), loss of funds to refurbish or improve existing infrastructure, and paved over open space.

There are hidden costs of sprawl everywhere, and it hardly ever pays for itself (especially subdivisions). New infrastructure is expensive. New schools, new utilities, and new services (fire, police, EMS) are required for the additional houses. More roads are built. Golf courses and strip malls take over. Because of the low-density of sprawl, it cannot sustain itself, and funds are funneled in to pay for it.

Money is constantly being diverted to the fringes of cities, instead of improving existing structures. This is why we see neighborhoods that are falling apart, and schools that shut down or are underfunded. Meanwhile, miles away, new and fancy schools are built for fewer kids. Developers are supposed to be charged impact fees to cover the costs of new schools and services, but they are rarely adequate. Climate Solutions, in its recent report entitled "Taking its Toll: The Hidden Costs of Sprawl in Washington State" finds that in the Issaquah School district, the cost of education is $18,600 for each single-family house built. But the impact fees charged to developers ranged from a ridiculous $1,100 to a measly $6,140. The rest of the cost jacks up property taxes for everyone else.

The same pattern is found with utilities. Outside Arvada, Colorado, a 90-house development will be built, requiring a nine-mile sewer line at a cost between $2.25 million and $2.7 million. The average property taxes of new houses are only $1,293, leaving well over $2 million of the cost for the rest of the taxpayers, according to a year 2000 Sierra Club report.

Zoning laws can encourage sprawl. They often require the separation of the uses of buildings, and also of building types. Therefore, the laws separate single-family houses from low-income and multiple-family structures and drive the density down, chewing up more land. Sustainability is virtually illegal, because buildings for living, schooling, shopping, and working are all zoned differently. And as sprawl grows, they get farther and farther apart, with more traffic in between.

Companies look for they cheapest way they can take over an area, and since they are free to move anywhere, or bring their job overseas for that matter, they have power. In an effort to attract jobs, build a tax base or improve the quality of life, city governments are always trying to entice new companies to move to town, or existing businesses to move to the edge of town. To do this they grant major tax breaks and subsidies, and sometimes offer new infrastructure or services, at taxpayer expense, of course. Because the cost of providing the subsidies and infrastructure is almost always greater than the money gained, the city has a revenue shortfall, and looks for more companies to pave over more open space. You can see how a vicious cycle is created. As usual, companies and corporations maintain power, and use governments like puppets, to make this strip-malled sprawlification legal, sought after, and paid for.

A case in point is in a recent article in The Olympian. It announces the possibility of development plans for a 93,000 square-foot WinCo foodstore in Lacey. There are already two huge supermarkets nearby, so it is unnecessary. It will just raise taxes for everyone, even though many will never shop there. It will create some jobs, but they will be jobs putting people to work to perpetuate the problem, instead of working for solutions for our sprawled areas.

The thing that really gets me the most about sprawl, however, and you could call it the icing on the crap-cake, is the names of these ply-wood, cookie-cutter subdivisions that seem to build themselves. Almost like grave markers, they have names like Spring Meadows, Oak Ridge, Cottonwood Hills, or Fox Creek, after they very places they destroy.

LET'S WORK ON SOLUTIONS

There are lots of solutions out there being worked on already. New, efficient technologies are being used. The voluntary rejection of unsustainable things is happening as well. Many solutions are found in the current movement to resist corporate control, and Reclaim the Streets. Bicycles or other forms of transport are commonplace, and public transit is fought for. There is an emphasis on do-it-yourself culture, which subverts the need for these stupid companies to move to town. There is bio-diesel, straw-bale and cob construction, and square-foot gardening. A guerilla gardening project was built on Mayday called the Secret Garden. It a unique solution to the effects of sprawl; reclaiming land that is damaged, reversing the destruction of sprawl, and growing food for people instead. Changes in lifestyle can slow the spread of unchecked development.

There are also ways to buy farmland to protect it. The 1996 Farm Bill created the Farmland Protection Program, which specializes in conservation easements. Since its introduction, it has purchased $230 million in easements, protecting 127,000 acres of farmland from development. There are also land trusts, including the Puget Sound Farm Trust, which helps farms and farmers alike.

There is a vision for healthy, sustainable communities used a method called Smart Growth. This envisions a city where there are many transportation options. Facilities exist for walking and bicycling anywhere. There is mass transit, pedestrian-only areas, and less traffic and reliance on cars. People can live within walking distance to work, school, stores, parks and recreation areas. Portland, Oregon and other cities have urban growth boundaries, as well as efficient light rail systems, two parts to the Smart Growth vision.

With good city planning, the population density is greater; less land and resources are used, but quality of life is not compromised. Many say they quality of life is enhanced because they have more free time in their lives. People know their neighbors and work together to improve the quality of life, instead of relying on corrupt officials and businesspeople to wring money out of their communities. Because there are no restrictive zoning codes, multi-family and single family dwellings can be near each other, as well as office and retail space. Cooperation is utilized to make work more efficient and enjoyable. With Smart Growth, city planning seeks to look at the big picture, allowing for growth without compromising the needs of people or the environment. Resource use is kept to a minimum. Existing buildings are reused, refurbished, and adapted to the surroundings. Development avoids critical natural areas and floodplains.

So what are things to work on? We must restore funding for mass transit. We must keep fighting hard to take our mobility back from the grip of car culture and sprawl. We must ride our bikes, and demand more lanes, paths, racks, and signals to accommodate them. Challenge the excess use of tax money for roads (be wary of several dangerous pro-road initiatives and proposals out there, including I-710 & 711).

Sprawl must be made to pay its own way. Demand that developers pay full impact fees, and cover costs of projects. Hold local officials accountable for the tremendous costs of sprawl. Demand property tax impact statements for any proposed development (such as WinCo foods).

Support and educate city planners with a green approach. Preserving open-space saves money, and provides necessary areas for wildlife and people. Check out the American Farmland Trust web page for a Cost of Community Services assessment, which can be performed on new or recent developments.

Advocate that improvements and money be directed toward existing buildings and infrastructure. Stand up for squatter's rights. Pressure officials to change zoning codes.

Talk about this issue with people. Challenge the widespread notion that all growth is positive, or that sprawl is inevitable. We can change the way our overpopulation is affecting the environment and the well being of people everywhere. We have to. The work will not be easy, but the environment and our children and granchildren are depending on us.

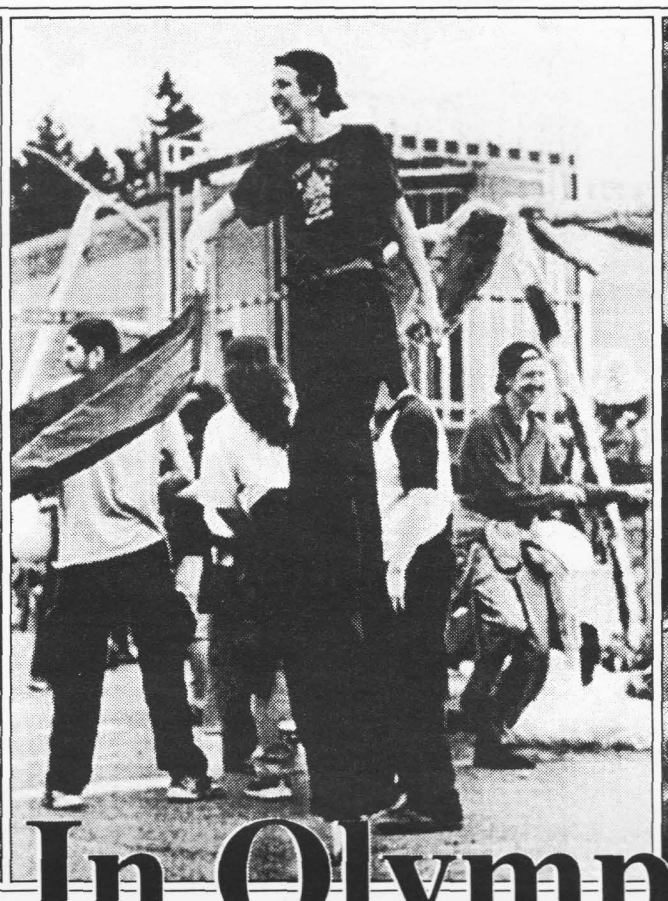
Finally, join in future actions, street parties, or just help out the movement to resist corporate control in some way. I say, down with all this sprawlishness.

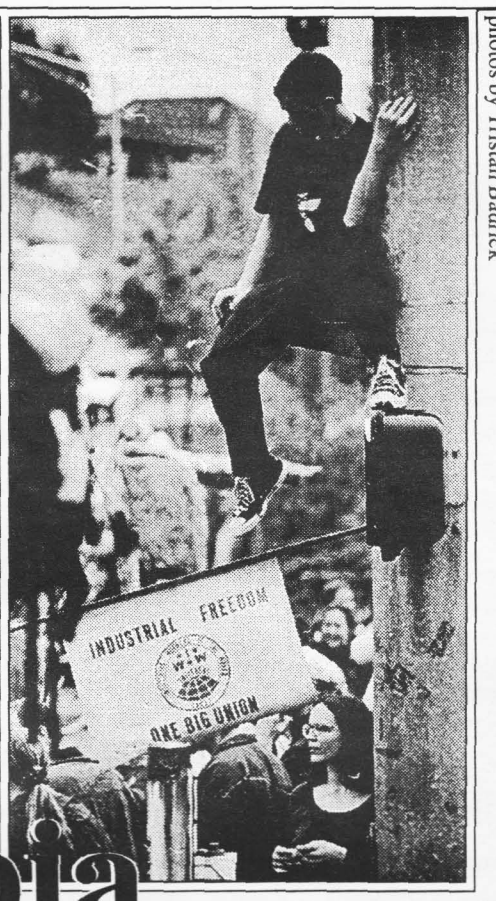
Check out these resources:

A good book is *The Ecology of Place* by Timothy Beatly and Kristy Manning.

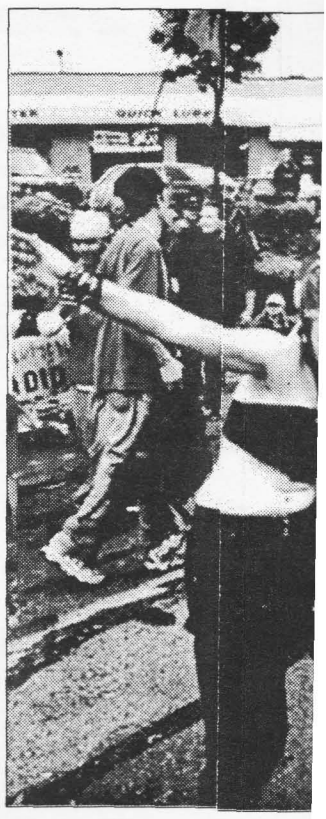
Stop by Climate Solutions here in town (4th Ave). They have an excellent new report out about sprawl in WA.

http://www.climatesolutions.org
http://www.farmland.org
http://sierraclub.org/sprawl ◆





photos by Tristan Baurick



Mayday In Olympia

Tristan Baurick

Mayday proved to be quite a festive time in the Capitol city - and quite a surprise for police, shoppers, and commuters. The Mayday street party and procession shut down the main artery of corperate commerce and auto commuting for a full day to bring attention to worker's rights and the evils of global economics.

At noon the rambunctious crowd that had been gathering in the parking lot of Rainy Day Records for more than an hour spilled into the streets.

Flags, banners, bikes, signs, stiltwalkers, drums, horns, and about 500 enthusiastic Maydayers made up the vibrant procession that marched through the strip-mall lined streets of Olympia's westside.

News helecoptors circled overhead while their sattelite news vans rolled in, pouring out reporters and camera men in hiking boots, ready for the next WTO warzone.

Police held off traffic, constantly creating blockades wherever the procession meandered. First Division and Harrison were closed down – then Capital Mall Boulevard and parts of Cooper Point Road.

Drivers caught on the roads sat with eyes transfixed and mouths agape while Maydayers weaved through their frozen cars, passing out flyers and urging the drivers to abandon their cars and join in.

At the intersection of Cooper Point Road and Black Lake Boulevard the secret location of the street party was revealed when, from out of the crowd, a 20-foot tripod with a man suspended from the center suddenly sprang up.

Road barriers made of couches, a refrigerator, black berry brambles, and a makeshift palm tree were planted to circle the intersection. A station wagon loaded with speakers, a power generator, and turntables rolled in to begin blaring dance music to the crowd that quickly formed around it. A band backed by a stack of amplifiers began at another end of the intersection. In the middle of it all, a circle of Maydayers crouched down to belt out insane rhythms with sticks and splintered 2x4s on buckets, VCRs, TVs, and other high tech tools. Dancers throughout the intersection swayed, hopped and bounced to the particular beat that dominated the sound space around them.

Tatiana Boland, a fourth year Evergreen student, thought the location for the party was an excellent choice to express dissatisfaction with capitalism gone awry. "I hate this intersection," she said. "It's totally Babylonian -- jammed with cars and corporate sprawl."

Food Not Bombs set up tables and distributed free watermelon, bananas, carrot sandwiches, and artesian well water to the people gathered. Artists got to work with colored chalk on the pavement and on each other with swirling painted designs smeared on faces and bare chests. Games of jump-rope and four-square randomly broke out throughout the intersection while a large circle of Maydayers collectively played with a giant parachute.

At the southeast corner of the intersection construction workers high atop the frame of a super store-in-progress pointed with broad smiles at the topless young women visible below. Many of the workers stayed after their day's labor was done to watch the spectacle. Two of them even joined in. "I don't know what this is all about, but this street is definitely the place to be," said construction worker Kevin Reebs.

To Steve Hughes, a member of the Mayday Action Committee, the street party was about involving and challenging the community. "I wanted to create a way to halt business as usual for a day and to get people out of their normal mind set." said Hughes. "I wanted people to stop in their tracks and think about global corporations and how workers are exploited."

The businesses and streets surrounding the intersection ground to a halt, forming a vast stillness around the packed throng of partyers. State Patrol officers closed two ramps exiting 101 while Olympia police held off drivers throughout the area between the highway and the Capital Mall. Barnes & Noble workers leaned idly against their check-out counters overlooking their nearly deserted super-store. Across the street the managers of Top Foods and Starbucks stood chatting outside with arms folded, scanning their enormous empty parking lot. "I don't mind what's going on out there," said a Top Foods cashier that did not want to be identified. "They can do it all night - I'm still getting paid."

Behind Top Foods waited a team of black-clad, club weilding riot police waiting for the order to crack down on the party. Fortunately, the order was never given.

Meanwhile, less than two miles away, Olympia's downtown streets rang with quiet. Business owners who had prepared for the worst peered from windows for the disaster that never happened. Talcott Jewelers removed all shiny objects from their window displays in preparation for rioting and looting.

Much of the business community's worry stemmed from a letter circulated by the OPD warning store owners to take actions ranging from video taping their storefronts, programming 911 into office and cell phones, and readying an area of their business where employees and customers could hide out until police could arrive on the scene. None of the preparation was needed however, as the Mayday festival went by without violence and completely avoided the downtown area.

Back at the westside intersection, at around 4 p.m., a large section of the crowd swarmed around a drainage plot near the northeast corner of the intersection. Below the crowd wrestled three men clothed only in the mud they wrestled in. The three beckoned others from the surrounding audience to join in. A middle aged woman came gleefully running from the nearby gas station waving dollar bills in her upraised hands. Wading ankle deep into the mud, the woman stuffed her bills into the rear ends of two of the naked men who danced a quick hip gyration to earn their money. In a half hours' time, the mud pit had swelled to include a dozen frolicking men and women diving, leaping, and flinging mud.

As dusk settled in the crowd began to thin. Police and city official Steve Hall attempted to direct the crowd to Yauger Park to allow the streets to clear. "[Mayday] has gone well so far," said Hall as he went around the intersection speaking with individual Maydayers asking them to move elsewhere. "But its a fairness thing," he continued "These people got to use the street all day long - now we have to let others use it."

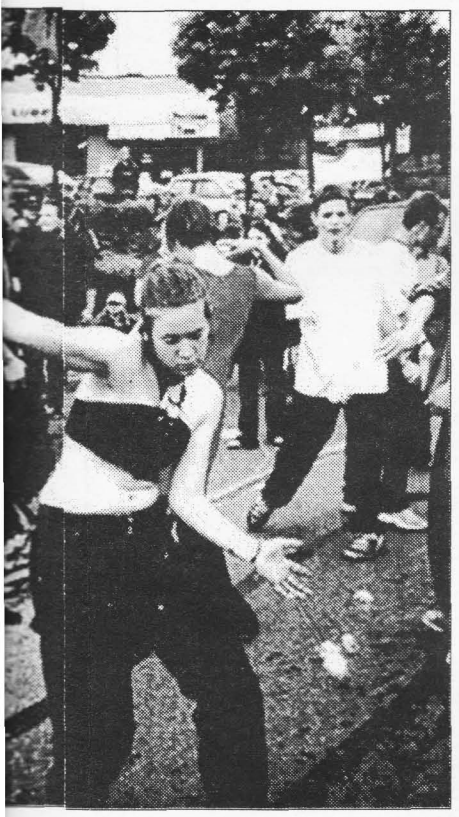
The procession reformed and began to move but did not stop at the park. Instead the crowd continued down Cooper Point Road, past Yauger and past Safeway, to hang a right onto busy Harrison Avenue.

The procession came to a halt at Kenyon Street near the Target shopping complex to join other Maydayers in constructing the Secret Garden. Winding down a newly cleared dirt path, Maydayers trickled into the garden space that had been claimed from the private ownership of the Cafaro Corporation during the afternoon.

Maple and pine seedlings were distributed and shovels shared. "Plant some trees! Take back this land from those bastards!" yelled one of the Guerrilla Gardeners pointing to the strip-mall developments looming accross the street and behind him.

By 8:30 p.m., as the dark clouds overhead began to drizzle light rain, Maydayers gathered around the garden's central maypole. To the beat of drums a group danced, weaving yellow and white ribbons down to the mud at the foot of the pole, capping off a near ten hours of Mayday festivities. ◆

photos by Tristan Baurick



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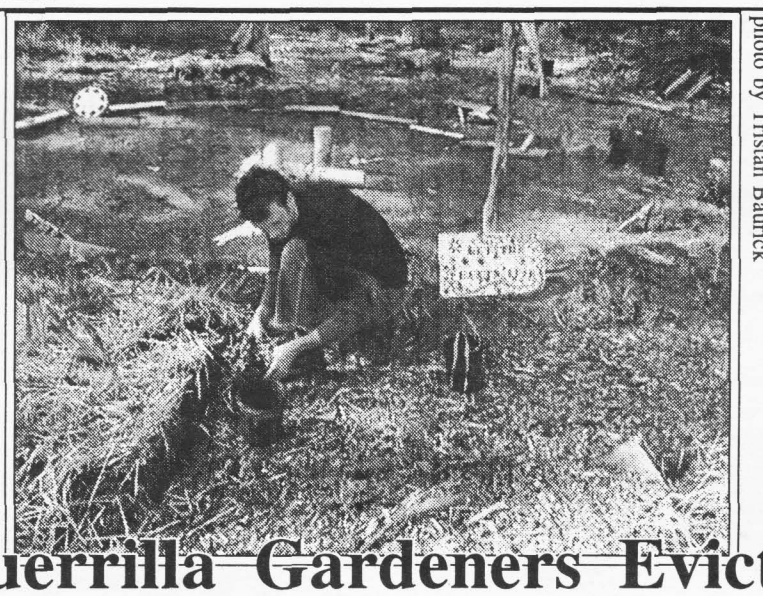

photo by Tristan Baurick

Guerrilla Gardeners Evicted

Tristan Baurick

Less than two weeks after its creation, the Secret Garden is no more.

Opposition from police, vandals, and the corporation in control of the land has proven too strong for the Guerrilla Gardeners who created the garden during the Mayday celebration as a gathering place where free vegetables and herbs could be grown and to demonstrate alternative, non-commercial uses for land.

Only days after the garden was established the destruction of it began. At first, just a few newly planted trees and vegetable crops were trampled. A week later the Cafaro Corporation, the vacant lot's Ohio based land owner, knocked down the Secret Garden sign facing Harrison Avenue and chain sawed the garden's may pole and bulletin board.

The next blow came with the arrest of two picnickers at the garden on May 11. Both were charged with criminal trespassing and fined $500. Mary Margaret Fondriest, one of the two arrested, was back at the Secret Garden the next day on Friday, May 12, as part of a protest and rally to save the garden's plants before Cafaro's planned bulldozing during the weekend. "This place is important to me", said Fondriest, "I'm a city kid. This is the first place I ever planted a tree."

Despite the danger of trespassing charges, over a half dozen activist gardeners began early that Friday to save as many plants as they could. Some used shovels while many used their bare hands to dig – always with a wary eye scanning for police. Armloads of garlic, rosemary, mint, thyme, strawberry , and sword fern were quickly run uphill to be loaded into cars and vans.

Many who took part in the salvaging action believed strongly in what the garden represented. While gently uprooting a young maple, Ben Michaelis spoke of the need for more green spaces and the lack of community gathering spaces in Olympia's west side. "We wanted to plant seeds to enrich our lives and we didn't want to have to ask permission to do that," he said. Fondriest spoke of the dislike she has for the way land is used on the west side. "This area is dominated by parking lots," she said, "it's a place of low-wage workers and high profits that are not reinvested."

By 5:30 p.m. a group of almost 40 had gathered to show their support for the Secret Garden. Some passed flyers out to drivers stopped at the intersection of Harrison and Kenyon Street. Others painted signs or held them up for drivers to see. "Save Our Commons" said one. Another declared, "No Garden is Illegal".

Once the salvaging was finished the Guerrilla Gardeners and their supporters gathered together to form a somber funeral procession. With a wooden casket carried at the helm the procession meandered around the plot of land as a last good bye to their uprooted garden.

However the activists' hope for a community garden and the cause of reclaiming green space has not been lost. "Having our gardens destroyed only strengthens our resolve to build again." said Guerrilla Gardener Eli Stepp.

Action taken by the Guerrilla Gardeners after the rally has included a May 14 presentation and series of speeches to the Olympia City Council by 5 activists to extol the virtues of community gardens and urge greater support from local government. On May 19 a petition created by the gardeners began circulating around the Olympia area with the hope that enough signatures demonstrate the amount of support behind the movement to transform the Cafaro land into a community garden. Activists hope the city council will endorse the petition and that Cafaro will donate the unused lot to the community. ◆

photo by Tristan Baurick

For me, May Day in Olympia was many things. It was many more things than I could probably write here. But I'm going to try. May Day, historically, commemorates the death of the Haymarket Martyrs and the establishment of the 8-hour work day, which people fought for the around the world, over a hundred years ago. Traditionally, May Day is also part of Beltaine, the pagan holiday celebrating spring, rebirth, and fertility of the earth, people, and their livestock. May Day was also a Global Day of Action, where people all over the world held demonstrations against capitalism.

This May Day some of us in Olympia took over the streets in celebration of these and other things.

Some of us were there for the fun party atmosphere. I was there for the above reasons but also because I feel that cars and capitalism have a stranglehold on our society and we need to break these chains.

I believe May Day helped weaken the chains. We showed that there is support in our community for reclaiming the streets from cars and capitalism.

We showed that we can have fun doing it. In reclaiming unused private property and turning it into a beautiful community garden, we brought attention to the lack of beautiful public spaces in Olympia, especially on the West Side. I do not feel we did anything wrong on May Day. Everything we did was imbued with meaning and purpose and months of planning. The streets belong to us because we pay for them. Why shouldn't we be able to play in them whenever and wherever we want? They are yours too, so take advantage of it.

~Meghann Clark

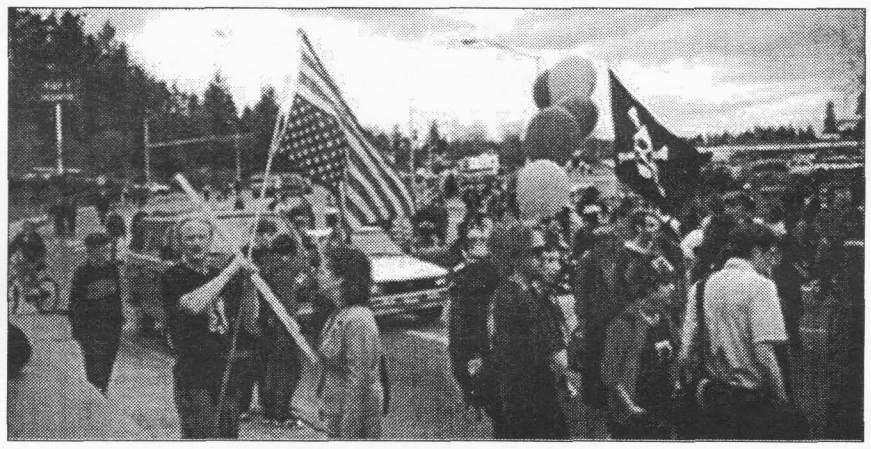

photo by Meghann Clark

photo by Meghann Clark

The May 4th Task Force- 25 Years of Student Activism

Mac Lojowsky

After the May 4, 1970 shootings at Kent State University, both the Ohio and federal government wanted to divert attention from their actions, and place blame elsewhere. Predictably, they blamed the student protesters, going so far as to indite what came to be known as the "Kent 25" for creating an atmosphere of revolution. In addition to the students, the government blamed the Kent State administration for its' accepting attitude towards campus dissent.

In recommendations made by the October 16, 1970 Report of the Special Grand Jury under Judge Edwin W. Jones (the same report which held 25 students responsible for the National Guard murders), the KSU administration was heavily criticized. The report (which also cleared the Ohio National Guard of any wrongdoing May 4, 1970) accused the KSU administration of having "fostered an attitude of laxity, over-indulgence, and permissiveness with its students and faculty to the extent it can no longer regulate the activities of either and is particularly vulnerable to any pressure applied from radical elements within the student body or faculty.

A second example of where the University has obviously contributed to the crisis it now faces is the over-emphasis which it has placed and allowed to be placed on the right to dissent. This is evident by the administrative staff in providing a forum and available facilities for every 'radical group' that comes along and 'speakers' that they bring to campus."

The Report also targeted politically active student groups on campus. "No distinction is made between ordinary student organizations whose objectives are related to legitimate activities on campus and the politically active student organizations whose membership openly advocates revolution and anarchy. Expel the trouble makers without fear or favor. Evict from the campus those persons bent on disorder."

And since the KSU administration stopped holding May 4th ceremonies in 1975, the May 4th Task Force has suffered the recommendations from that report for the past twenty-five years. In 1977, the KSU administration announced plans to build a gym that would partially cover the site of the May 4th, 1970 shootings, despite hundreds of available other acres on campus.

In response, the May 4th Task Force erected "Tent City" and occupied the proposed building site for over two months. "Tent City" was a cooperative community of students and activists who cooked meals together, made all decisions through marathon democratic meetings (some lasting more than eight hours), and stood united against the University's attempts to literally "cover up" the May 4 shootings. In the end, the Report's recommendations were followed and 193 residents of Tent City were arrested, including Martin and Sarah Scheuer, whose daughter was murdered May 4, 1970. Tent City was bulldozed over, and the gym was built.

Over the next two decades, the KSU administration slowly took more and more control away from the students groups on campus. The student activity fees (which at the Evergreen State College are distributed through organizational budgets and special initiative funds), were funneled into non-political ventures such as the All Campus Programming Board, who bring musicians and comedy acts to campus. Rochelle Gause, a Kent State graduate and former member of the Task Force believes the KSU administration "clearly knows what they're doing, and they're trying to end the May 4th Task Force."

Kent's student government, Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) now has their full tuition paid through these funds. Additionally, the USS is in control of the remaining student activity fees, which the May 4th Task Force relies upon to fund the annual Commemorations. Two years ago, USS allocated $30,000 for the College Republicans to bring Bob Dole to campus. This year's Commemoration was threatened with bankruptcy when USS attempted to bring former warlord Collin Powel at a cost of $60,000 to the students.

Despite these apparent hindrances the May 4th Task Force has survived and thrived over the past 25 years. More and more students are joining the Task Force each semester, says co-chair Jeff Ritter. As a reflection of the growing national student movement, the May 4th Task Force brought a lineup of speakers from all walks of life around the cause of May 4th, 1970.

May 4, 2000.

It was just after noon and the Victory Bell began to ring across the Kent State University Commons. The bell rang fifteen times. Thirty years earlier, Ohio National Guard members had opened fire on a unarmed crowd of student protesters. Four students were killed, nine were wounded. Two weeks after the Kent State shootings, Mississippi police killed two protesting students at Jackson State University.

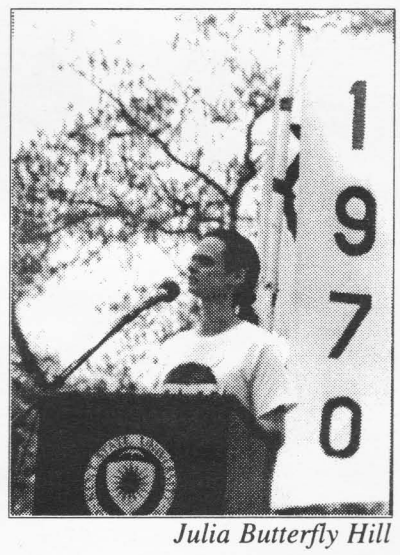

photo by Karel Lojowsky

Julia Butterfly Hill

The shootings have been commemorated each year since 1975 by the May 4th Task Force, bringing in speakers and performers whose names have become synonymous with activism: Helen Caldicott, Jane Fonda, Jesse Jackson, and William Kuntzler; Peter, Paul and Mary; Joan Baez; and Crosby, Stills and Nash. This year was no different, spotlighting some of the most prominent U.S. leaders of social and political change: Mumia Abu-Jamal, Philadelphia MOVE member Ramona Africa, Global Exchange's Julliette Beck, the American Indian Movement's Vernon Bellecourt, environmental and social justice advocate Julia Butterfly Hill, and political theorist Noam Chomsky.

Kent State graduate student Kabir Syed, a ten-year member of the May 4th Task Force, said this year's ceremonies reflected the solidarity and interconnectedness of current national movements:

"The wide variety of issues speaks to the growth of the social-political movement which exists in the U.S. We see a range and, yet, an integration of ideology here today. Though there are differences between us, we are growing aware that these differences need not separate us from accomplishing our tasks."

Notably, this year also was the first time all of the nine wounded had gathered together on campus since 1970. Alan Canfora, who was shot May 4,

(Continued next page)

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(May 4th, continued)

came with his sister Chic, who also was present at the Kent State shootings. "May 4 is not just about tragedy," Chic Canfora explained to the audience. "We assemble here each year not only to remember our fallen friends, but to resurrect the issues and ideals for which they died. The most important of which, for all of us, for every American citizen, is freedom of speech."

They were two of some 3,000 students, Vietnam War veterans, activists,and others who traveled from as far away as Dublin, Ireland, and Quebec, Canada, not only to remember what had happened in 1970 but to celebrate the long student tradition of protest and resistance.

The Thirtieth Anniversary

According to MOVE activist Ramona Africa, the government's attitude towards political activism has not changed over the past thirty years. Africa is the only adult survivor of the May 13, 1985, police bombing of a MOVE household in Philadelphia. Five children and six adults were killed from a fire bomb dropped by a police helicopter. At this year's ceremonies commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Kent State shootings, Africa explained the importance of solidarity.

"This country was founded, was born of violence, rape, robbery, the massacre of indigenous people of this country, and nothing has changed since that time, the methods have just become more sophisticated, more treacherous. We all have to come together, work together to end this insanity. If we don't we are all doomed. There will be many more Kent States, Jackson States, Mumia's, MOVE bombings, Amadou Diallo, Big Mountains."

In a move that prompted outrage from Ohio Governor Bob Taft, the Fraternal Order of Police, and Kent State officials, the May Fourth Task Force invited death-row inmate, journalist, and political activist Mumia Abu-Jamal to send a three-and-a-half-minute taped speech. Abu-Jamal was convicted in 1982 of murdering a Philadelphia police officer, but the prosecution has since been accused of a politically motivated vendetta.

Even Kent State's elected student government (who regularly attend lunches with university administrators and Ohio politicians) publicly denounced the Task Force. Undergraduate Student Senate Executive Director Nic Smith was quoted in the May 4 Daily Kent Stater, the campus newspaper: "In the future, we need to make sure the historical aspects of the May 4 incident are remembered and cease to become a showcase for personal political gain'.It is my firm belief that this [Mumia Abu-Jamal's case] has no correlation to the events of the May 4th incident, despite the arguments of a handful of student organizations." But current Evergreen State College graduate student Rochelle Gause disagrees:

"The same system which killed Jeff, Bill, Allison and Sandy is the same system which wants to kill Mumia. With the recent case of thirteen Illinois death-row convictions being overturned and the investigation of the Los Angeles police department, you simply can't say that his case does not reflect a greater symptom of our system. It's pretty clear how corrupt things are, and if this doesn't apply to May 4, then I don't know what does."

Despite numerous University predictions, Abu-Jamal's tape-recorded speech did not talk about his own situation, but of the lessons that May 4, 1970, offers activists today: "Kent State teaches that a so-called free society will slaughter students who are exercising their alleged Constitutional rights of demonstrating for peace, and then give awards to the killers. Kent State was indeed a bloody marker, but as Amadou Diallo shows, the blood continues to run."

Not surprisingly, the mainstream media mostly ignored the other eighteen speakers at this year's commemoration ceremonies and focused on the controversy surrounding Abu-Jamal's speech. For example, the May 1 *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (which touts itself as "Ohio's largest newspaper") mentioned only one speaker by name: Mumia Abu-Jamal. "Various speakers will reflect on the last three decades," the newspaper wrote in a schedule of events, "and a taped message from Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is on Pennsylvania's death row for shooting a police officer, will be played." There was no mention of Abu-Jamal's long history of political activism or the numerous claims that he deserves a new trial.

Four days later, the May 5 *Plain Dealer* gave more coverage to the three anti-Abu-Jamal protesters who showed up for the speech than all of the commemoration's political speakers combined. To few students' surprise, the *Daily Kent Stater* followed suit. Its coverage of the controversy overshadowed commemoration events. The May 4 *Kent Stater* managed to criticize the Task Force in four separate articles without once mentioning the lineup of speakers.

Mike Pacifico, a May Fourth Task Force historian and long-time supporter, says the campus newspaper's coverage is largely influenced by the Kent State administration. He says administrators have long tried to "bureaucratically eliminate the May Fourth Task Force from campus through their ultimate control over the student press and student funding."

Despite the media's slant on this year's commemoration, those in attendance heard the message of growing solidarity from one speaker after another. Environmental and social justice folksinger Alice Di Micele sang with the audience, "I wanna live in a world, where all there is to sing about is love, and the beauty of the earth."

Julliette Beck of Global Exchange—the San Francisco-based organization that helped orchestrate the recent protests in Seattle against the World Trade Organization and in Washington, D.C., against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund—spoke of the links between the student movements of the 1960's and today:

"I think it is critical that we begin to connect with our history. [Undersecretary of Defense] Robert MacNamara, as soon as he was done with the war in Vietnam, went on to become the president of the World Bank'.[In it's fifty-year history] the World Bank has increased poverty, increased debt, it has caused ecosystem disasters of unbelievable proportions. We are living in a world where seven million children die each year by the economic policies perpetrated by the World Bank, by these structural adjustment policies which MacNamara masterminded."

At the ongoing Kaiser-Aluminum lockout, steelworkers have joined with environmentalists against company owner Charles Hurwitz. Hurwitz also owns Pacific Lumber, which is currently responsible for cutting down some of the last of California's ancient redwoods. Together, they are forging the bonds of solidarity.

Commemoration speaker and activist Julia Butterfly Hill spent 738 days in a 200-year-old redwood tree named Luna in an effort to protest Pacific Lumber's logging of old-growth forests. "I'm here today because I realize that the environment and social justice issues are one," she said, "that it all becomes a target until we as people stand up and exercise our muscles."

Overall, this year's thirtieth-anniversary ceremonies proved to be a showcase for how the current student movement is not only well informed but is making the necessary ties of solidarity outside of college campuses. The ceremonies were a celebration of activism, an exercise of free speech, and a demonstration that all issues address the same system.

As May Fourth Task Force Co-Chair Jeff Ritter observed, "So many movements are represented here today—the American Indian Movement, the environmental movement, anti-globalization, the MOVE organization. It's a real symbol of solidarity, of all the things that are going on today."

Vernon Bellecourt, a national representative of the American Indian Movement, was pleased with the May 4th Task Force, "The spirit of these young people are creating leadership on this campus."

Alan Canfora agrees that there is clearly a new trend of modern student activism in 2000. "Many of the veterans of our earlier student movement remain active across America today and contribute effort and awareness to assist younger activists today." And as American Indian Movement elder Madonna Thunder Hawk recently said in Olympia, Washington, "The young people are again on the move. When the young people of this country move, things change."

Brad Myers, an Ohio State University history major who attended the commemoration, said he has seen a dramatic increase in student activism on his campus in recent years. "There's always demonstrations going on now at Ohio State, whether it be another Home Depot going up or forests coming down," he said. "I think that students are beginning to understand that things aren't okay anymore. More than that, they're doing something about it."

For Rochelle Gause, this year's ceremonies summed up many of the issues being raised by the current movement: "The growth of the movement that's happening nationally is really represented here today. People realize that we're all in this fight together, and it's time to stop fighting each other and focus on the real issues." For Gause, May 4, 1970, is more than just a historical remembrance; it is a source of inspiration and action:

"As students, we must remember our past and continue the work that students before us began. Bill, Jeff, Sandy, and Allison are always in my heart, every protest I attend, every time I raise my voice in opposition. To me, May 4 represents everything that I fight for; truth, justice and freedom."

Kent State senior and commemoration organizer Wendy Semon agrees. "The living legacy of those four students is activism," she said. "The only appropriate way students of today can keep that legacy alive is to promote activism and educate others."

Carol Myer, who survived the May 4 shootings, believes that solidarity in activism is more than just politics. "The generations bond, they flow together. But, I think it's more like an eternal stream of radicals that go back through time. We're all a part of that, and always will be a part of it, through the ages. No cop can arrest that stream and no government can ever kill it." ◆

"Thirty years earlier, Ohio National Guard members had opened fire on an unarmed crowd of student protesters. Four were killed, nine were wounded."

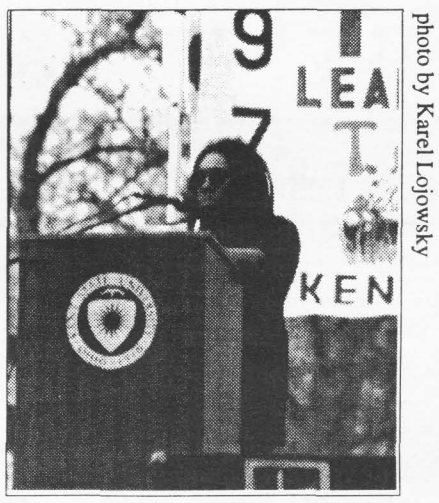


photo by Karel Lojowsky

Ramona Africa

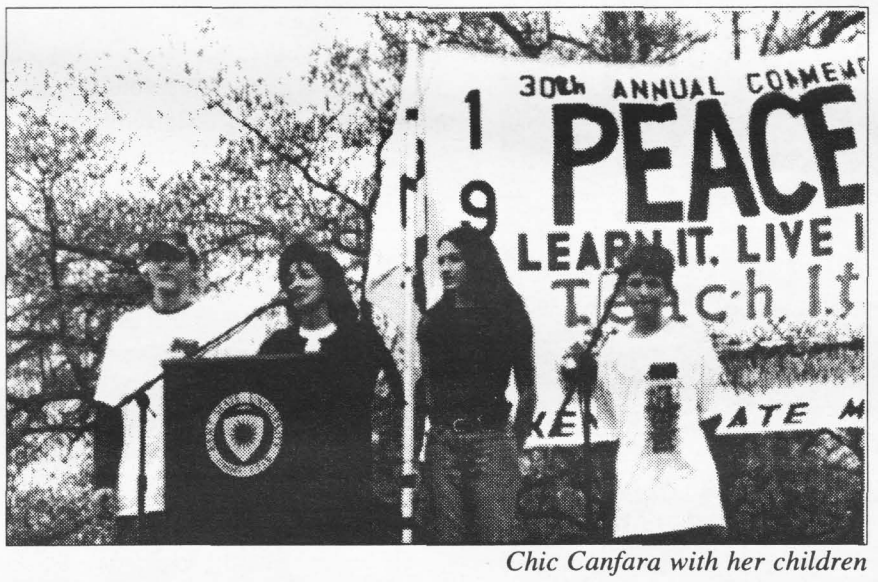


photo by Karel Lojowsky

Chic Canfara with her children

Supporting Cuba And Its People

Coby Leibman

The sea of Cuban flags flutter back and forth in the new "Plaza of Dignity". The camera zooms in on the fiery speech being delivered by a leader of the Communist Youth League. The young woman is waving her fist wildly in a style that has been labeled Fidelismo. "Devuelven Elian", "Viva la Revolucion", "Viva Socialismo", each word erupts from her throat with a rehearsed fiery urgency.

I watched the situation with Elian unfold during my four months in Cuba. By working and socializing in many different areas of Cuba, I came to know several people who had strong criticisms of how Elian was being used by the Cuban government. Through presenting some of the problems in the Cuban governments manipulation of the Elian case, I hope to expose some of the current problems of power in the Cuban government. I will also discuss how our views of Cuba might be distorted and dispel some of the mythology around the Cuban government.

One of the problems that keeps us from looking at the situation clearly, is the romanticism of the Cuban government that occurred during the anti-war movement and continues to this day. During the anti-war movement people were rallying against what looked like an invincible beast (the U.S. government). The Vietnamese Communists and the Cuban government offered a glimpse of what armed resistance could look like. Both groups proved that armed resistance could be effective against the U.S. government. Many political movements shadowed over the problems in the Cuban model in an attempt to build international allies. Cuba became a model for an alternative system and many people aligned their ideology with the propaganda the Cuban government was producing. What has emerged from this situation is an ideological dogma around Cuba.

The dogma of the left can also be traced to a reaction against the U.S. press and the propaganda that has been produced to justify an economic-political war on Cuba. It's important to understand the background of the propaganda we've been fed in the U.S. so that we can look clearly at the situation in Cuba. U.S. economic interest in Cuba can be traced back to a plan that was created in 1823 called "fruta madura" (ripe fruit). This was a theory that Cuba should be incorporated into the U.S. once it separated from Spain. Since that time the U.S. has tried to dominate Cuba by any means possible. The U.S. occupied Cuba at the turn of the century and helped support the puppet Batista, who catered almost exclusively to U.S. corporations. Cuban alliance with the Soviet Union during the Cold War fueled the lie that Cuba was a stepping stone for Soviet invasion and must be overthrown. The real agenda was to re-establish U.S. corporations in Cuba and exploit the economy. Small groups of anti-Fidel Cubans living in Miami were trained by the CIA to invade Cuba and overthrow the government. In the Bay of Pigs, the U.S. forces were afraid to commit to armed invasion and the Miami groups were abandoned and left to be murdered and imprisoned on Cuban shores. As soon as Fidel came to power various attempts were made on his life and an embargo was created to put pressure on the government. The embargo was consolidated in 1992 with the Torcelli bill and the Helms-Burton bill in 1996. Both of these bills ban the sale of U.S. products in Cuba and prohibit U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba. There have been various other missions led by the CIA, including the "Peter Pan" mission that basically influenced 10,000 Cuban families to send their children to the U.S. and then "re-educated" them and prohibited them from returning home.

The U.S. has created a huge propaganda campaign against Cuba to support it's political-economic agendas. In this campaign the Cuban government has been accused of every abuse under the sun. Most of the accusations produced by right wing Miami groups and the U.S. government are motivated by an agenda to re-establish economic investments in Cuba and exploit it's people. I am extremely critical of most information produced by these groups. I believe the U.S. and Miami groups have waged a war on the Cuban government since it came to power. The war has been extreme but it in no way justifies the oppressive measures Fidel has adopted to control the people of Cuba. The Fidel and the elite in Cuba would justify their power, war or no war.

"The war has been extreme but it in no way justifies the oppressive measures Fidel has adopted to control the people of Cuba."

To address the main problems facing Cubans right now, I will focus on the case of Elian. Elian is a Cuban boy that was rescued from sea after the boat that he was using to come to the U.S. sunk. Elian's mother and other Cubans drowned at sea and Elian was brought to Miami. He was immediately snatched up by anti-Fidel Miami groups and politicized and exploited to further their agendas. One of the reasons Elian was allowed to stay in Miami is a bill called the Cuban Adjustment Act. This bill gives refugee status and the right to stay in the U.S., to any Cuban that sets foot on U.S. soil. There is usually a very strict legal process to achieve refugee status. The bill was set up by the U.S. to help encourage illegal immigration that would undermine the Cuban government.

The large rallies that been organized by the Cuban government for the return of Elian are one example of government oppression. Anyone working in any government position can lose their job for not attending one of these rallies. Almost every job in Cuba is financed by the state, and highly monitored by government forces. One of the members of the family I stayed with worked as a professor at Havana University. She was told that if she didn't attend these rallies and encourage her students to do the same her job would be terminated. All state institutions including the University are shut down during the rallies. All levels of schools are led to the rallies by their teachers. The military comes out in full force and all Cuban press is brought to the events. The two T.V. stations in Cuba are both operated by the state and focus exclusively on the Elian trial and Fidel as the only leader in the fight against the US. Why is there such a huge focus on Elian? The issue is not really Elian but a method to spread government propaganda and control the people. At these rallies masses of people listen to the heads of various Communist organizations shout emphatically into the microphone about preserving the ideals of the Revolution, long live Fidel and return Elian. The speakers all use a style called Fidelismo, which refers to the way all young people are trained to speak in the same style as Fidel and mimic his ideology. The rallies portray Fidel and the military as protectors of the people, and make people feel like they have the right to protest when in reality all methods of protest against the Revolution are systematically shut down.

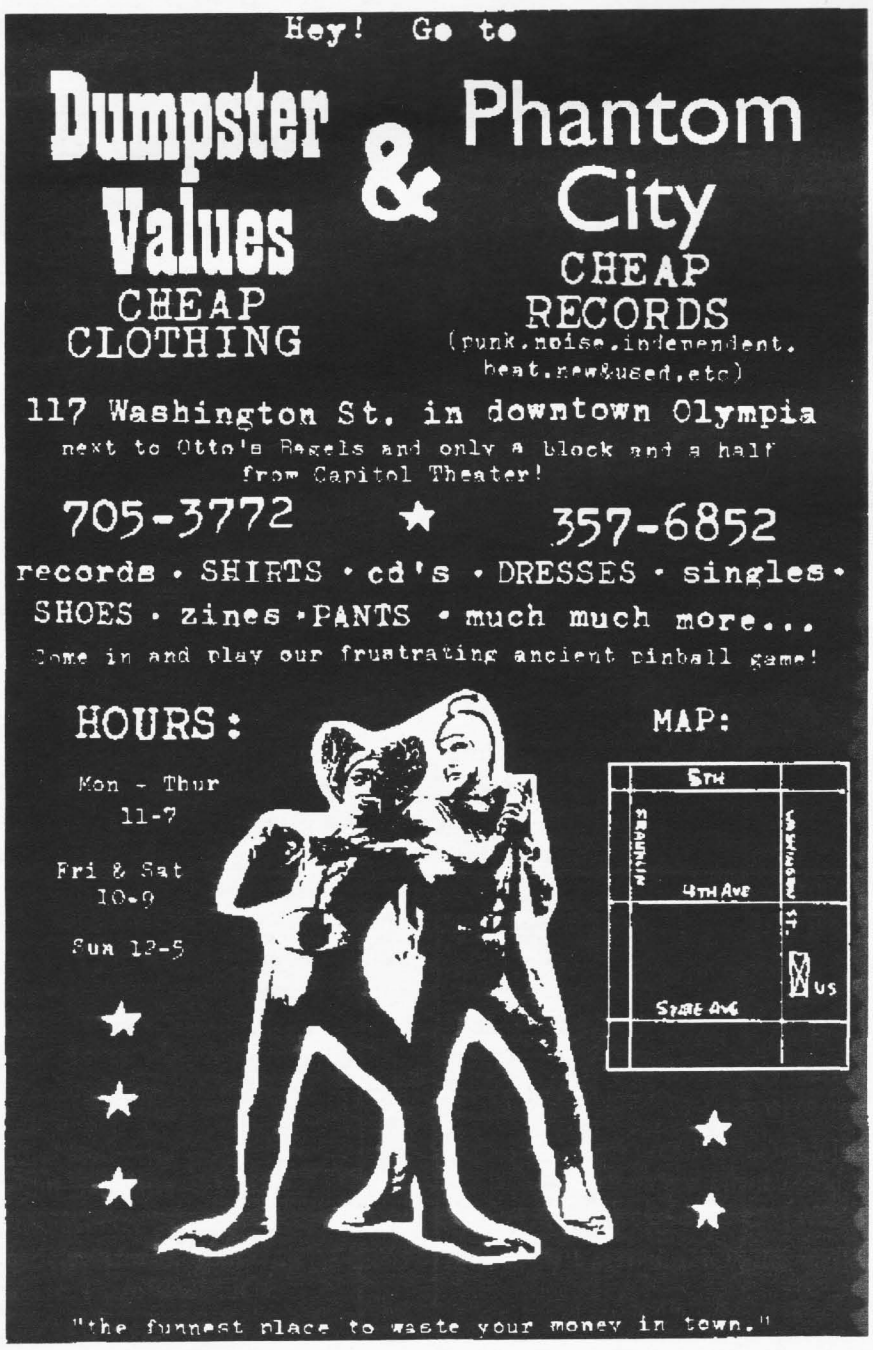
The control of information and thought are the major ways that the Cuban government discourages protest and secures it's power. All media services including the newspapers, radios and television stations are dominated with praise of the government and statistics that support the government. You cannot find a single book in any book stand or library that is not supportive of Communist ideology. The CDR which is a neighborhood watch group as well as the police, monitor any individual who speaks against the revolution in any way. You can be arrested in Cuba for crimes varying from the possession of so called propaganda, to defamation, resisting authority and association to commit criminal acts. I had friends that were followed on a daily basis, had their phone's cut, were kicked out of the University, and were constantly pulled in for long extended interrogations simply because of their political beliefs. On one occasion several people I knew tried to organize a marcn against government suppression. The day before the event it was announced that a children's cultural event was to take place on the same street as the march. When the march reached the edge of the children's event several secret police officers emerged and began beating up protesters. In the clash several children were injured and the next day on the news it was announced that anti-government protesters had beaten up a group of children. By expressing any anti-government view you can lose your job and put yourself in a position of constant police harassment or imprisonment. To survive in the Cuban system the people develop what Cubans call "la doble moral"(duel morality).

"La doble moral" is a term that refers to the way people maintain the facade of being pro-government while actually believing in a separate set of values. People adopt most of the principles of the revolution through scare tactics. This is not to say that there aren't people who support the revolution but even then they are held in a state of ideological stagnation. Their ideology is largely dictated by Fidel and Communist elite.

Double morality is not a Cuban invention, it operates in every government system in the world. In order for any government to maintain power, people have to be forced to not recognize their own unique political, sexual and moral beliefs. If everyone lived by their own principals and not imposed morality, the state couldn't force us to go to war, work long hours, or allow ourselves to be exploited, for their agendas. All centralized structures of government lead to oppressive schizophrenic conditions.

Double morality plays out in many ways in Cuba including the role of a double economy. The average salary in Cuba is $8 a month, for most families this is not enough to survive. There is a small

(Continued next page)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(Cuba, continued)

amount of food that is state subsidized. It consists of 6 libres of rice a month, 6 eggs every fifteen days, a small portion of flour, a small portion of sugar, some coffee, one small roll and meat on rare occasions. Most Cubans spend 80% of their salary on buying food at the open markets and the newly developed dollar shops. The economy has risen dramatically since the "special period" (when the Soviet Union fell). Yet most of the profit has gone to building resorts and developing the tourist industry instead of to the people. In order to survive most people operate in a double economy or the "black market". The income for almost all Cuban families comes from the sale of stolen goods and prohibited actions. At the risk of imprisonment Cubans sell cigars, lobsters, rum, stolen food items, household appliances and their bodies to rich tourists and their neighbors. Prostitution is one of the biggest trades in Cuba, with children as young as 12 years old working the streets. Fidel refuses to acknowledge prostitution, claiming that all prostitution was wiped out in the 60's through re-education. While I was there, there was a huge purge of on the streets where several thousand prostitutes including some of my friends werearrested and sent to Cuban jails. Operating in the double economy can be extremely dangerous but the vast network of people buying and selling continues to exist out of a necessity to survive.

The problems in Cuba are numerous but there is a well run health care system with amazing doctors that provide free health care for people. The only problem with the health care system is the high price of medicines due to the embargo and lack of state support, which makes it difficult for most Cubans to pay. There is free educational opportunities and an extremely high literacy rate. Cubans can study for an advanced degree as long as they support the government and stick to pro-government educational fields. The Cuban government has challenged U.S. imperialism and corporations consistently under extremely tough conditions. The Cuban government was working towards improvements from the Batista regime but only within a limited ideological context. The structure of the Cuban state was essentially the construction of a few elite individuals. Most Cubans had high hopes at the beginning of the revolution but soon realized that the new government was simply a continuation of 500 years of military dictatorships. History repeats itself, most of society was organized around a dictatorship before the revolution and it fell into that model after the revolution.

My aim in writing this article is to present a clear analysis of the situation in Cuba. I focused on a different picture of Cuba that centers around the people I love and their resistance to oppression. We all should enjoy the opportunity to freely decide the fate of our lives and the ideology we choose to live by. I am not advocating for myself or any other American to intervene in the situation, to do so would be colonialist and racist. I am advocating for us to study and discuss the situation in Cuba clearly without the bias of propaganda. I choose to ally myself with the people that I became friends with in Cuba not the Cuban government. I think everyone should try to formulate their own opinions on Cuba free of ideological dogma from the left or the right, but ultimately the choice is yours. If you've got any comments or want to talk, e-mail me at <cobyleibman@yahoo.com> ◆

Up Front

Tragedy in Sierra Leone

Jerome Johnson

You cannot have a state where a group of rebels arrogate to themselves the right to exploit the riches of the country, either for themselves or for a war. —UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, 15 May 2000

Last Wednesday—two days after Annan spoke at a news conference in New York—one of Africa's most savage butchers, Foday Sankoh, was arrested outside his ruined house in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. I pray that his arrest will lead to peace in this beautiful, shattered country.

Although it began a decade ago, we haven't seen the war in Sierra Leone covered by the US media. As usual with African wars, in the judgment of the wealthy white folks who run the media, it wasn't considered important enough. Americans aren't involved, European interests aren't suffering and there is no "national security interest."

So, just like Rwanda, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Angola, we didn't hear about the terrible carnage in Sierra Leone until the country was in extremis and the UN sent in peacekeepers, even though there's no peace to keep. Now we get bits and snippets of information in the mass media, as usual, and we probably won't even get these much longer. After all, despite Clinton's high-sounding rhetoric, it's still Africa.

As usual, the fighting in Sierra Leone began over money and power. By 1998, the people, the country and the battling factions were all tired of war and so agreed to elections. Then—as now—the main players were Sankoh, Ahmed T. Kebbah, a powerful faction led by Sierra Leonean LTC Johnny Koroma, and President Charles Taylor of Liberia.

In elections that international monitors agreed were remarkably fair under the conditions, Kebbah won the presidency.

Koroma was disappointed, but shrugged and resumed his duties in the Sierra Leonean army. Sankoh, on the other hand, took his estimated 45,000 guerillas back into the bush and continued fighting. If possible, the new fighting was even more savage than before. Sankoh's guerrillas, called the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), attacked not only Sierra Leonean troops and militias allied with the government, but also the entire civlian population of the country. Sankoh's troops roamed the countryside, randomly using machetes to cut off the hands and arms of ordinary people in a campaign of terror. Sankoh reasoned that if he couldn't defeat the government in combat, he would do it by terror. If he terrorized enough people, the people and the government would surrender to him just to stop the butchery. This tactic had worked very well for Sankoh's friend President Taylor, who used it to hack his way into power in Liberia during the mid-90s.

Well, it worked just as well for Sankoh. He and his troops were even more brutal than Taylor's – adding rape, arson and looting to their repertoire. A regional peacekeeping force led by Nigeria kept the cities reasonably safe, but the countryside—including eastern Sierra Leone, where most of the diamond mines are—was another matter.

"As usual with African wars, in the judgement of of the wealthy white folks who run the media, it wasn't considered important enough."

Last year, in a desperate effort to stop the fighting, the Kebbah government offered Sankoh and his fighters a very sweet deal. They would be pardoned and receive a general amnesty for atrocities, be integrated back into society, and Sankoh was given a major government position in control of part of the eastern mining regions. All the RUF had to do was surrender its arms and stop fighting.

No one liked the idea of swallowing the grave injustices of the RUF by any means, but it seemed the only thin ray of hope. After all, this formula is working surprisingly well in Cambodia, and it had been through a lot more than Sierra Leone. That was the hope, and it proved forlorn. Sankoh played along for a few months, then resumed fighting earlier this year. He doesn't want to share power—he wants ALL the power, and it doesn't matter to him how many are killed, maimed, ill or homeless.

In fact, some—like Sierra Leone's ambassador to the US, John Leigh—believe that the crisis in the nation isn't really a true civil war, but rather the biggest diamond robbery in history. Recently, in an excellent interview on C-SPAN, Leigh pointed out that that Sankoh is the only one in Sierra Leone fighting the government, and he has no political agenda. Rather, Sankoh wants to control Sierra Leone to fill his own coffers, just like Mobutu Sese Seko in the former Zaire, now Congo.

Sankoh's forces are funded by diamond sales—handled by his crony Taylor. For a handler's fee, diamonds mined from Sankoh's enclave in eastern Sierra Leone are shipped to the world markets via Liberia and arms, drugs and other supplies flow back. As Leigh noted, Sierra Leone has much bigger diamond resources than Liberia—but in 1999, Liberia earned $298 million in diamond revenue, while Sierra Leone earned only $31 million. And besides diamonds, Sierra Leone has huge deposits of gold, copper, bauxite, titanium and other resources.

And now that Sankoh is in custody, what's the answer for Sierra Leone?

The fact that UN officials are renewing their commitment to staying is a good sign, but there must be a peace to keep before the country can rebuild. For that, the UN will need more than the 14,000 troops scheduled for duty—25,000 would be better, to effectively police the country. A significant part of that force should be Nigerian if possible, due to their previous experience in-country. The UN force must have full logistic and intelligence support, and heavy weapons. Most of all, they need clear rules of engagement and the will to enforce them.

No one knows what Sankoh's RUF will do, now that he's in custody. Initial signs are promising: UN troops held hostage in eastern Sierra Leone for more than the past week are being released in groups. Many Sierra Leonens hope that Sankoh's arrest will encourage the RUF to disarm and allow UN units to spread throughout the country. Once the fighting stops, the Sierra Leoneans can start the reconstruction.

In Sierra Leone, Britain—the former colonial power—backs the UN with the Royal Navy and control of the airport.

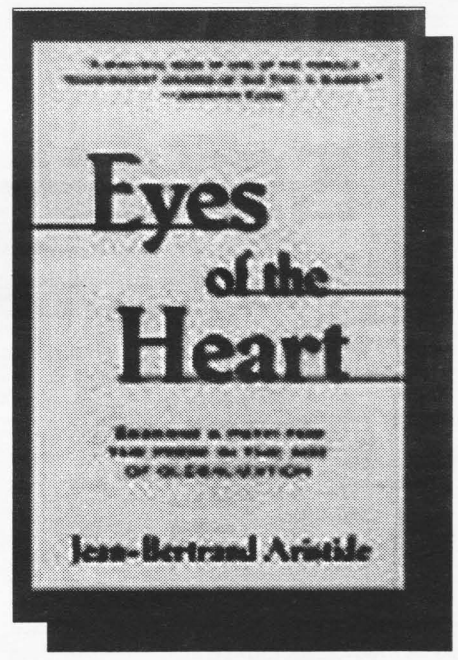
In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers smell victory in the Jaffna air.

In Colombia, the US quietly increases its involvement.

And in Olympia, citizens band together in a fight to save their waterfront from unchecked, unnecessary, un attractive development. ◆

Book Review

Aristide Tells the Human Side of the Globalization Story in Haiti



Jeff Sowers

Eyes of The Heart Seeking a Path for the Poor in the Age of Globalization
By Jean Bertrand Aristide Common Courage Press, 88 pp., $12

During the 1980's Haiti squirmed under the heavy hand of U.S. puppet and dictator "Baby Doc" Duvalier. The poor were being driven into ever greater depths of misery and oppression, as Duvalier dutifully imposed U.S. prescribed neoliberal economic policies on the suffering nation. CIA backed and trained paramilitary death squads, the infamous Tonton Macoute, roamed the country terrorizing the population into political submission. Midnight abductions were followed with the tortured and mutilated remains of bodies left in the street as a warning to others.

It was in this context, in a small church on the edge of the sprawling slums of Port-au-Prince, that the voice of a small, frail priest, Jean Bertrund Aristide, rose up to speak out for the poor and challenge the politics of social misery.

Almost two decades, half a dozen assassination attempts, and a military coup later, Aristide has again taken center stage as a shoo-in candidate for the upcoming presidential elections scheduled for November 2000.

For those wondering how his politics may have changed over the years, his latest book, *Eyes of the Heart: Finding a Path for the Poor in the Age of Globalization* shows him as dedicated to speaking out for the poor, and as incisive in his critique of social inequality and globalization, as ever.

In an approach reminiscent of Gandhi, Aristide's "weapons" of social revolution are non-violent activism, love, persistence, and a willingness to speak the truth. For this he has engendered the animosity, and even hatred of the Haitian elite and international financial establishment, and the undying adulation and love of the Haitian masses. he is without doubt one of the great moral and political leaders of our time.

For the past five years Aristide has maintained a low profile, serving and working with the poor through his Aristide Foundation for Democracy and his Port-au-Prince home. In the book, which he presents as a "letter" from the Haitian people to the world(he receives hundred of letters daily), he eloquently weaves anecdotal stories from his youth and experiences working with the poor, with a cogent description and analysis of the effects of globalization on Haiti, and the world as a whole.

The resulting mix is a powerful testimony to the dignity and cultural strength of the Haitian people in the face of extremely dire circumstances, and a relentless condemnation of the hypocrisy and callous inhumanity of the international financial community.

"In an approach reminiscent of Gandhi, Aristide's "weapons" of social revolution are non-violent activism, love, persistence, and a willingness to speak the truth."

Aristide describes the scene of a Haitian market, where "free trade" has a human face. Here thousands of small farmers and townspeople gather to buy and sell food, produce, and everything else imaginable. The chance to visit with friends, hear the latest news, and share the excitement of a large communal gathering is an integral part of the experience. "Everyone comes. If you don't come, you will miss everything", he explains.

He contrasts this with the global corporate market which, the economists claim, is "more efficient". This is the market of factory farms and sweatshops, where goods are traded across computer networks, and where price depends on "the daily numbers game."

"Our fear is that the global market intends to annihilate our markets." With various examples he explains the impact. In one instance in the mid Eighties, as the Haitian government was pressured into "opening" Haiti's markets and eliminating trade barriers, the U.S. passed the 1985 Farm Act which increased subsidies to the U.S. rice industry. By 1987 "40% of U.S. rice growers' profits came from the government." Haiti went from growing almost all its rice in the early 80's, to importing almost all of it by 1996. "Once the dependence on foreign rice was complete, prices began to rise", and "the hungry become hungrier."

Unable to compete, and driven off the land by globalization, Haitian peasants immigrate to the city, Port-au-Prince, where official unemployment is 70%. What are they supposed to do there? The World Bank's answer: Work in the service or manufacturing sector (sweatshops), or immigrate (remember how the Haitian boat people were treated). Yet, Aristide points out, there are only 20,000 industrial/sweatshop jobs in Haiti, a mere drop in the bucket compared to the unemployed population. This is what Aristide calls "a choice between death and death." This is the choice being offered the poor by the IMF and World Bank.

Yet, from the choice between "death and death" the people somehow manage to find a way to survive. This is what Aristide calls the "third way." It is a way that emerges from a "wealth of spirit", and cultural factors of humor, solidarity and dignity. It is a way which allows for the sharing of food, to make room on a tap tap(taxi) which is already "impossibly full", or to raise a child of a friend or relative. With this "third way" Haitian people somehow managed to scrape by(those that don't die of disease, murder, etc.), all the while maintaining a faith that their great spiritual and political leader, Aristide, will find them a path to a better life.

Eye's of the Heart is a bit sketchy when it comes to envisioning a way out of Haiti's dire straight. While Aristide the realist is uncompromising in describing what he sees, Aristide the idealist comes across as naive in his hope for "Haitian cultural, economic, and political independence by the year 2004." How he expects this to come about is unclear. His public strategy appears to be persistent, firm negotiation, combined with an uncompromising appeal to the sympathies and compassion of the international community(assuming they have any) to provide a means for the poor to raise themselves from misery to "poverty with dignity."

But many questions remain unanswered. Once in office will he move to end "structural adjustment", and reject the economic agenda of the IMF and World Bank? And if he does, will he be able to resist the predictable economic and political consequences?

Clearly Aristide is not playing all his cards, as he is all to familiar with the violent potential of U.S. policy when its economic agenda is challenged. The U.S. connections to the 1991 Coup ousting Aristide is well documented, and surely at the front of his mind as he retakes the political stage.

During the U.S. occupation of Haiti, the U.S. neglect to disarm the paramilitaries was harshly criticized, and the U.S. continues to refuse to give up the more that 160,000 pages of documentation it seized from army and FRAPH headquarters(the political front of the paramilitary death squads), which could be used to identify the command structure, including CIA operatives.

Today these clandestine forces remain at large. Political violence and efforts at destabilization are prevalent, and likely to escalate as the election cycle moves forward. How Aristide will navigate through these treacherous waters, and "find a path for the poor in the age of globalization" remains to be seen. Yet if anyone is capable of finding "away when there is no way," it is Aristide. ◆

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Effective Washington DOC Cost-Cutting?

Tom W.S. Richey

Saturday, 11 March 2000

It was an improbable shot, at least in my opinion. An opinion borne from the experience of playing handball for eleven years at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. Some call these shots fingernail scrapers because that's what the concrete does. It bites your fingernails as you swipe at the low-driven ball, sometimes giving you a painful manicure, sometimes ripping a nail off.

It was an improbable shot but I attempted it anyway. I knew better. I knew my knee was questionable. It had popped several weeks before on this same handball court. Pain stabbed my knee periodically thereafter with little exertion on the limb. I had reported my injury through the prison sick-call physician assistant four days earlier yet no action had been taken. But my knee was the furthest thing from my mind during the spirit of competition. And competition is fierce at the penitentiary. Handball is one of the last surviving activities remaining from the broad clearance of prisoner activities brought on by prison cost-cutting. Handball is the daily staple of most active prisoners at the penitentiary. But after 14 years of running around concrete handball courts in Washington prisons, my 32-year-old limbs just ain't as flexible as the young men trying to push me into retirement. Occasionally though, I attempt flat-out dives on the concrete they refuse to do.

It was an improbable shot. Aye, but nothing I hadn't tried before. I sprang across the court, twisting, stretching, slapping the ball a couple of inches from the concrete, then being blinded by lightning striking my knee.

I rolled around, the competition sapped from me, overwhelmed by pain writhing in my knee. Prisoners gathered slowly around me, one jokingly commenting that I made the shot, two others offering assistance.

"Help me off the court," I said.

They helped me off the court and across the yard where a guard taxied me in a wheelchair to the infirmary.

No full-time doctor is present at the penitentiary hospital. Cost-cutting used a scalpel there too, you see. A flustered "nurse" loosely wrapped an Ace bandage around my knee, gave me aspirins and crutches, then sent me on my way.

Sunday, 12 March 2000

Awoke this morning staring at a poem someone taped to the underside of the bunk above me. *To An Athlete Dying Young*, by A.E. Housman. My younger cellmate grinned down from his bunk. I was surprised he was able to tape it there unnoticed. I drifted in and out of sleep all night. Pain stood vigil in my knee ready to stab at the slightest movement. I lay on my back all day, opting for hunger pangs in favor of a torturous hobble to the dining hall.

Monday, 13 March 2000

It took a Herculean effort to make it to the clothing room where I work as a clerk. I rolled around in my chair, catching up on a few files, then had to ask my supervisor to call the prison hospital staff. They told me that I should sign up for sick call the following day. Huh? I had followed this procedure the week before, achieving no result.

Unwilling to accept this, I faced a blank Prisoner Grievance Form and requested immediate medical attention. An hour passed. Even though grievance complaints are notoriously futile, I expected remedy. I believed my request was fair.

Before I hobbled from work to gorge on my first meal in two days, my supervisor received a call. I was ordered to return to my cell and keep my knee elevated for the day and sign up for sick call the following day. Aspirins would be provided for my pain. Aspirins?

After I arrived at my cell, a guard told me that I had to remain there all day. Two bologna sandwiches would be delivered to me for dinner. Great. I felt as if I was being punished for being hurt, or maybe for filing the grievance complaint. It's difficult to believe that in a population of over 2,000 prisoners, no qualified physician is on call to provide timely medical attention.

Cost-cutting. Cutting costs in all the wrong places. Education, medical, prisoner programs, all slashed by the DOC to promote its image to the public that they're getting tough on criminals and using less tax money to do it.

But it's a con.

Behind the cost-cutting facade exists black hole overspending alive and well. You see, within the heart of DOC overspending is the policy that each department in each prison is allotted a generous budget at the beginning of the year. If, for example, the Electrician's Shop fails to spend every penny of its budget for a particular year, the amount they did not spend is deducted from their budget the following year. "Use it or lose it."

" Money that is wasted on useless equipment is spent to exhaust the budget and then some to increase the following year's projected budget. It is money that can be put to better use providing operable computers and books for schools."

Knowing this principle helps you understand why the Electrician's Shop supervisor routinely charges Joe Taxpayer, via the DOC, $45 to change a light bulb in one of the cellblocks. A light bulb that costs a couple of bucks, if that, installed by a prisoner who is paid 22 cents an hour, supervised by a staff member who may be paid around $18 an hour.

The penitentiary's "Capital Projects" department is responsible for the majority of black hole spending. Capital Projects encompasses the Electrician's Shop, the Plumbing Shop as well as other utility departments that maintain the general physical upkeep of the prison. Its work force consists of overpaid underqualified civilians who supervise and rely on a small skilled work force of prisoners.

Some of this work force made chairs with cupholders for the gun towers surrounding the penitentiary. These chairs were made from square metal tubing and foam for cushioning. The materials for one chair cost less than $125. Add the cost of prisoner labor which couldn't be more than $5, and the supervisory cost of around $60, and each chair costs less than $200 to manufacture. However, when the chairs were produced by Capital Projects about one year ago, they charged Joe Taxpayer a price tag of over $1,000 per chair.

Cost-cutting. Hmmm.

Another incident regards the Capital Projects engineer who has an open DOC checkbook he regularly takes to Hanford auctions. He is the recurring butt of jokes among staff and prisoners because he frequently returns from Hanford with thousands of dollars of junk Joe Taxpayer paid for.

Dozens of inoperable computers crowded pallets in the prison industries area that were bought from Hanford. Spare parts, I suppose. The computers and other Hanford defunct machinery sat idle until they one day "disappeared."

Money that is wasted on useless equipment is spent to exhaust the budget and then some to increase the following year's projected budget. It is money that can be put to better use providing operable computers and books for schools.

Not all staff are spend-free. The penitentiary plumber recently designed a faucet for the prison sinks which cost as little as $3 to manufacture. The existing faucets are specially ordered at a cost of $57 apiece. Frequently, prisoners in segregation take out their frustrations on the sinks, beating them, which often breaks the faucet. Plumbing Shop was visited by DOC officials a couple of months ago. The staff plumber showed them his $3 design as a replacement for the $57 version. He probably expected a pat on the back. Instead, he was ordered to use the $57 version and not to produce another $3 faucet.

Kickbacks? Or just another excuse to overspend? ◆

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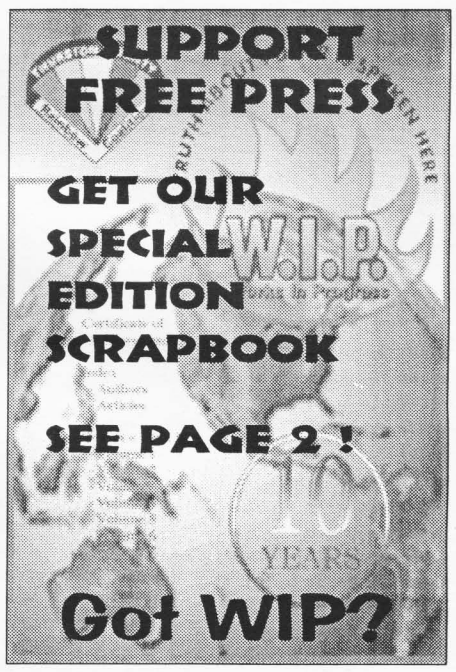

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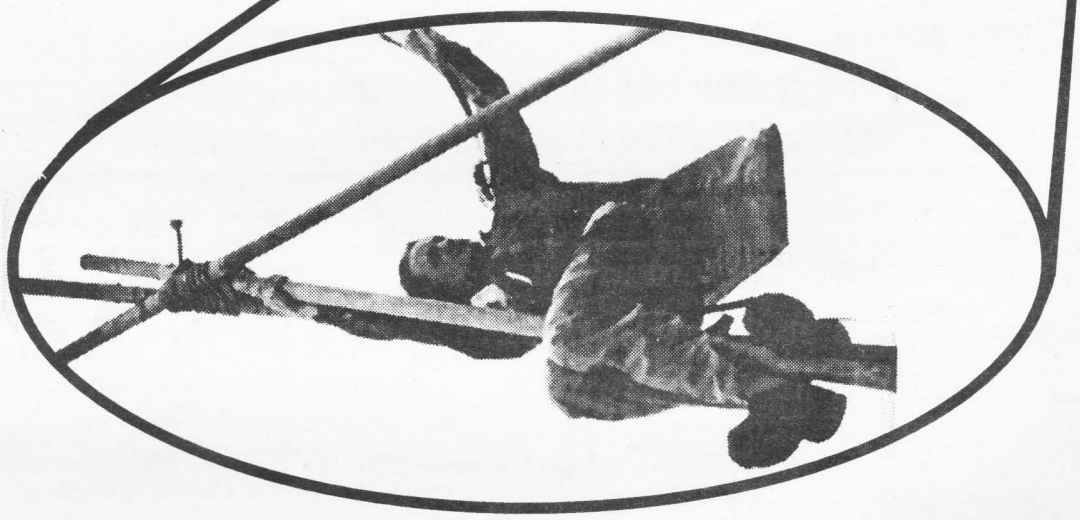

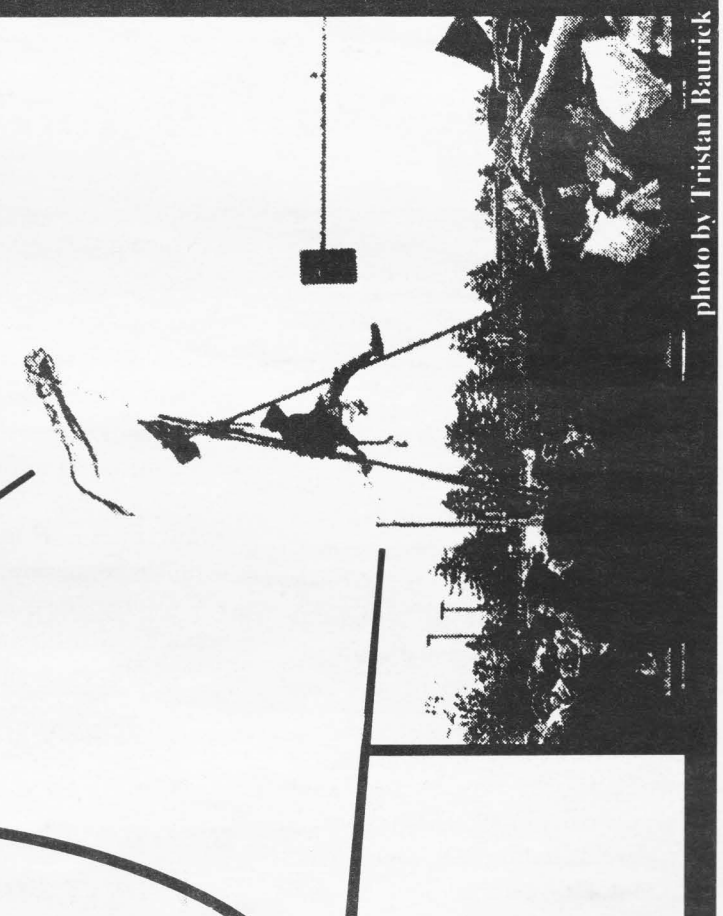

photo by Tristam Baurick

1 MayDay in Olympia & Pride Day 2000

4 Crossing the Line with Bruce Tenney

6 Book Review *The War Against Children of Color*

8 Reclaim The Street

10 Kent State Reunion

14 Book Review Eyes of the Heart

13 Up Front on Sierra Leone

JOURNEY BACK TO THE HEART
Black Hills Year 2000 Be There!

A Call To All Nations To Heal Mother Earth For Our Youth
World Peace And Prayer Day
Paha Sapa - June 21st, 2000

World Peace & Prayer Day - June 18th-21st
in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
<http://www.worldpeaceday.com/2000>

Journey Back to the Heart - June 19th-22nd
<http://www.journeybacktotheheart.com>

Spiritual Unity of Tribes/Gathering of Eagles
June 22nd-25th
<http://www.sunsinger.com/bhcom/gatherings.shtml>

A Call for Celebration and Action
for Global, Social, Economic, Racial and Environmental Justice!
No More Business As Usual!
From Selma to Seattle -
Let's Bring the Spirit to Philadelphia and Los Angeles this Summer!

Protest the GOP Presidential Convention
<http://www.stockton.edu/~change/unity2000>

Make History
in Philadelphia July 30th
UNITY2000
Philadelphia July 30, 2000

Protest the Democratic Presidential Convention
<http://www.peoplesconvention.com>
<http://www.d2kla.org>

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507